



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Final Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Provancha called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: 8 - Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Commissioner Daniel Jones, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak, Vice Chair Rob Hanson and Commissioner Ava Podracky

Also present: Ben Martig, City Administrator; Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Davin Sokup, Council Member (Non-Voting Ex Officio Member); Alex Halverson, Youth Representative (Non-Voting)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson and Commissioner Podracky

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [25-443](#) July 16, 2025 EQC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the July 16, 2025 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson and Commissioner Podracky

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Anderson spoke on recent e-mails to the EQC from citizens concerning trees, the golf course, and waste prevention issues and suggested that the EQC adopt a formal way of addressing during EQC meetings the issues raised by citizens. The EQC discussed possibilities for doing so.
- Commissioner Shmurak would like to add the topic of pesticides and the recent golf

course study to a future agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [25-444](#) 2025 Work Plan Updates

- *Zero Waste Plan Implementation: The single-use bag town hall has been canceled. The survey will remain open to the public until September 12, 2025.*
- *Community Engagement Campaign: Energy Efficiency, HVAC Contractor and Homeowner Education: Commissioner Anderson reported that he has heard back from the Minnesota Center for Energy and the Environment and they are interested in hosting a virtual meeting with HVAC contractors in the Northfield area. Members of the EQC and City staff will meet with this organization on Thursday, August 21, 2025. Anderson also reported that the Minnesota Department of Commerce plans to continue their rebate programs for home energy efficiency upgrades.*
- *Native Planting Ordinance: Tree Planting & Vegetation: Commissioner Jones sent a draft of an advisory memo to be approved by the EQC and sent to City staff. The subcommittee working on this initiative would like the City to tie urban forestry management to the Land Use Code. Commissioner Petri raised the issues of local trees regarding fireflies and tree limb loss.*
- *Water Quality & Conservation: Commissioner Shmurak reported that this subcommittee is waiting to hear back from City staff regarding publicity materials. Commissioners Shmurak and Podracky wish to include discussion of pesticide use in this initiative.*
- *Research Level 3 Charger use & need: This initiative has been completed.*

STAFF UPDATES

3. [25-445](#) Staff Update.

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided updates from City staff. City Administrator Ben Martig provided an update on the City's contract discussions on refuse, recycling, and organic waste pickup as well as Spring Cleanup days. Martig and Karim responded to questions and comments on this topic from the EQC, City Council Member Sokup provided additional context from the point of view of City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson and Commissioner Podracky