



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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 Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak, Vice Chair Rob Hanson, Commissioner Ava Podracky and Commissioner Kimberly Haroldson

Also present: Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator; Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Alex Halverson, Youth Representative

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [26-039](#) December 17, 2025 EQC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the December 17, 2025 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

PRESENTATIONS

2. [26-040](#) Zero Waste Initiative #1 - Single-Use Carryout Bag Community Survey Results

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented the results of the Single-Use Carryout Bag Community Survey. Karim responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Petri informed the EQC of the upcoming presentation by Forest to Fork on February 22, 2026 at Cannon Valley Friends.
- Commissioner Anderson has been following developments in balcony solar power, small-scale solar panels that can generate small amounts of household power where rooftop solar is not an option.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. [26-041](#) Discussion regarding the 2026 Work Plan

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented the suggestions she received from the EQC for the 2026-2027 EQC Work Plan. The commissioners discussed all the suggested initiatives, working via consensus-building to make a final list of six.

STAFF UPDATES

4. [26-042](#) Staff Update

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim introduced the new Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich. Karim presented updates from City staff.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Kinney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

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