



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

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

Present: 8 - Commissioner Michael Provancha, Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Commissioner Daniel Jones, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner Lucy Menssen, Commissioner Martha Larson, Commissioner George Kinney and Commissioner Evan Pak

Also present: Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator/Staff Liaison; Gabby Gingras, Ecolibrium3 AmeriCorps VISTA - Sustainability Associate; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Luke Pegram, Youth Representative (Non-Voting)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Pak, seconded by Vice Chair Jones, to approve the agenda as is. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Commissioner Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Menssen, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Pak

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [23-1076](#) March 15th, 2023 EQC Meeting Minutes.

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

Yes: 8 - Commissioner Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Menssen, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Pak

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

PRESENTATIONS

2. [23-1077](#) Presentation regarding Partners in Energy 2.0

Assistant to the City Administrator/Staff Liaison Risi Karim introduced Marisa Bayer, Senior Manager of Community Planning at the Center for Energy and Environment, and

representatives of Xcel Energy who presented on the history of the Partners in Energy program. Bayer delivered the presentation, addressed comments and questions from the Commission, and offered a proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the next iteration of Partners in Energy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve moving forward with the Memorandum of Understanding. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Commissioner Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Menssen, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Pak

3. [23-1078](#) Presentation regarding the Sustainable Building Policy

Assistant to the City Administrator/Staff Liaison Risi Karim introduced Katie Jones, Community Program and Policy Manager at the Center for Energy and Environment, who delivered a presentation on recommended updates to the Sustainable Building Policy. Jones addressed comments and questions from the Commission.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. [23-1079](#) 2023 Work Plan Update

Assistant to the City Administrator/Staff Liaison Risi Karim provided an update on the Single Use Plastic Reduction initiative and addressed questions and comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioners provided updates on the initiatives they are leading or assisting with under the 2023 Work Plan as follows:

Karim and Commissioners Kinney and Pak provided updates on the Reduction of Single Use Plastic in the City of Northfield and on the hiring of a Carleton College student to work as a summer intern on implementation of the Zero Waste Plan.

Commissioner Anderson and Chair Petri provided an update on the Inflation Reduction Act Public Forum held as part of the Northfield Area Home & Garden Show on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at the Dundas Dome.

Commissioners Jones and Kinney, as part of the Urban Forestry Management initiative, met with the Northfield City Arborist to develop a plan for management of city trees and to discuss ideas for including the public in the development of this plan.

Commissioners Anderson and Larson provided an update on Climate Action Plan Tracking. They will be presenting at the Earth Day event on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the First United Church of Christ.

Chair Petri and Commissioners Anderson and Pak introduced the students from St. Olaf College who designed and drafted the Green Book, a part of Northfield's Green Welcome Packet. The students addressed questions and comments from the Commissioners.

5. [23-1080](#) Northfield News Monthly Series Opinion Piece.

The Commission discussed Chair Petri's draft of the No Mow May opinion piece for the Northfield News and provided suggestions for changes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pak, seconded by Commissioner Kinney, to approve the Northfield News opinion piece with the recommended changes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Commissioner Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Menssen, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Pak

6. [23-1081](#)

Staff Update

Assistant to the City Administrator/Staff Liaison Risi Karim provided an update on the upcoming presentation at City Hall on the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan and encouraged Commissioners to attend if at all possible. Karim also provided updates on the upcoming paper shredding event, Earth Day events, the availability of promotional materials for the public for No Mow May, and the importance of registration for No Mow May.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND CHAIR

Commissioner Kinney reported on the 2023 Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. The deadline to take the pledge was April 1, 2023 and the challenge runs from April 1 through April 30. Commissioners expressed their interest in participating in the challenge in 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Pak, seconded by Commissioner Kinney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Commissioner Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Menssen, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Pak