



# City of Northfield

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

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Wednesday, February 21, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

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

- Present:** 7 - Vice Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Chair Daniel Jones, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Luke Pegram and Commissioner Susannah Shmurak
- Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Michelle Mattson

*Also present: Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator; Justin Wagner, Utilities Manager; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Jael Conde (Youth Representative. non-voting)*

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Vice Chair Provancha, to amend the agenda to include an additional item: 4. Letter of Support. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Pegram and Commissioner Shmurak

**A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Vice Chair Provancha, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Pegram and Commissioner Shmurak

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [24-148](#) January 17, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [1 - January 17, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kinney, to approve the January 17, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Pegram and Commissioner Shmurak

## OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

*No public comment was received.*

## PRESENTATIONS

2. [24-149](#) Review Water Treatment Plant Renderings and Landscaping

**Attachments:** [1 - WTP Renderings Presentation EQC](#)  
[2 - Water Treatment Plant New Construction Webpage](#)  
[3 - 2.13.24 City Council Meeting Agenda - See Video Hour 1:Minute 7:Second 4 For Start of Landscape Presentation](#)

*City of Northfield Utilities Manager Justin Wagner delivered a presentation on renderings and landscaping for the new water treatment plant. Wagner responded to questions and comments from the Commissioners.*

## REGULAR AGENDA

3. [24-150](#) Chair Jones Remarks

*Chair Jones delivered remarks on a future agenda item regarding a proposed disc golf course in the City.*

4. [24-154](#) Letter of Support

*Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented a request from the Community Action Center for a letter of support from EQC for their grant application for a community car share program. The Commissioners discussed the request.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve a letter of support from the EQC for the Community Action Center's grant application for a community car share program. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Pegram and Commissioner Shmurak

5. [24-151](#) Discussion regarding the 2024 Work Plan

**Attachments:** [1 - 2024 Work Plan Consideration](#)  
[2 - 2024 Work Plan\\_DRAFT](#)

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented the 2024 EQC Work Plan for discussion by and updates from the Commissioners:

- Commissioners Kinney and Provancha have been working with Carleton College students on educational materials for implementation of a Zero Waste Plan. One of the students provided a brief update on their work.
- Commissioners Petri and Anderson conducted a session at Fifty North on the Inflation Reduction Act workshop. They will be working with other area groups on additional events. Petri updated the Commissioners on a "Building Our Future Legislative Output" event coming up on Friday.
- Commissioner Anderson and Youth Representatives Pegram and Conde are working on an Active Living: Walk and Bike Campaign. Anderson is meeting with community members who might help with coordinating volunteers.
- Vice Chair Provancha and Commissioner Mattson are working with St. Olaf College regarding the planting of fruit trees and community gardens as part of the Food Education Campaign.
- Chair Jones and Commissioner Kinney are interested in developing an Urban Forestry Management Plan as part of the Native Planting Promoting: Tree Planting & Vegetation initiative.
- Commissioner Anderson proposed as the sixth Work Plan Initiative investigating a policy requiring carbon neutrality (no natural gas infrastructure) for future City housing projects. Karim will talk with City Staff to see what is feasible.

## STAFF UPDATES

6. [24-152](#) Staff Update

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided updates from City Staff.

## BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Petri mentioned an upcoming event on District Energy Systems.
- Commissioner Shmurak is interested in participating in future Inflation Reduction Act events. Petri will bring her into the planning for future events.
- Commissioner Anderson reported on a presentation he attended on Neighborhood-Scale Decarbonization as well as upcoming related events. One such event is an upcoming Open House on modular and manufactured housing on February 29, 2024.
- Petri attended a talk given by Heidi Roop on the Future of Minnesota's Climate at the Minnesota Legislature.
- Commissioner Provancha reported on the work of the Rotary Climate Action Team on weatherization of homes.
- Shmurak asked about Water Conservation in the 2024 EQC Work Plan and where it might fit into an existing Work Plan initiative, possibly the Native Planting Promoting: Tree Planting & Vegetation initiative.

## ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Commissioner Petri, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Pegram and Commissioner Shmurak