



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, March 19, 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 6:00 p.m.

Present: 7 - Michael Provancha, Commissioner Daniel Jones, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak, Commissioner Jael Conde and Vice Chair Rob Hanson

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bruce Anderson

Also present: Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Ava Podracky, Youth Representative (non-voting)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Commissioner Conde and Vice Chair Hanson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [25-148](#) February 19, 2025 EQC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Petri, seconded by Commissioner Shmurak, to approve the February 19, 2025 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Commissioner Conde and Vice Chair Hanson

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [25-153](#) Consider Motion of Support for Resolution Proclaiming April 26, 2025 as Earth Day in Northfield.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hanson, seconded by Commissioner Kinney, to approve support for a resolution proclaiming April 26, 2025 as Earth Day in Northfield. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Commissioner Conde and Vice Chair Hanson

3. [25-152](#) Consider motion of support for Resolution Proclaiming Less Mow May in the City of Northfield for 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Shmurak, to approve support for a resolution proclaiming Less Mow May in the City of Northfield for 2025.

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Commissioner Conde and Vice Chair Hanson

4. [25-149](#) Discussion regarding Earth Day (2025) participation

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim reminded the EQC that Northfield's Earth Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Commissioners discussed opportunities for volunteering for tabling that day.

5. [25-150](#) 2025 Work Plan Updates

The members of the EQC reviewed their recent work on the EQC 2025 Annual Work Plan:

- Zero Waste Plan Implementation: The subcommittee met with Zero Waste Northfield regarding single use plastic elimination and to refine survey questions aimed at both residents and business owners. The EQC discussed the survey questions.*
- Community Engagement Campaign: Energy Efficiency, HVAC Contractor and Homeowner Education: On March 3, the subcommittee met with City staff and RCAT member Alan Anderson to explore opportunities for community engagement. The discussion centered on various community gatherings and ways to inform residents about available IRA incentives, including the upcoming Northfield Home and Garden Show.*
- Native Planting Ordinance: Tree Planting & Vegetation: Commissioner Jones reviewed his notes from the City Planning Office and will meet with the other members of the subcommittee soon.*
- Water Quality & Conservation: Commissioner Shmurak met with James McDermott, Northfield Water Quality Technician regarding publicizing water quality and conservation rebates and opportunities.*
- Research Level 3 Charger Use & Need: Vice Chair Hanson reported on the subcommittee's review of the current availability and use of Level 2 EV chargers. Chair Provancha and Commissioner Kinney reported on the cost and availability of Level 3 chargers. The EQC discussed the use and need of chargers in Northfield.*

STAFF UPDATES

6. [25-151](#) Staff Update.

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided updates from City staff. Karim responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Petri reported on her attendance at the Minnesota Clean Energy Business Day at the Capitol on March 6, 2025.*
- Commissioner Jones met with the Northfield Earth Day group about a presentation and discussion on that day.*

- Chair Provancha met with Mayor Zweifel to discuss the work of the EQC.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Kinney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Commissioner Conde and Vice Chair Hanson