



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, March 18, 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: 6 - Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak, Vice Chair Rob Hanson and Commissioner Kimberly Haroldson

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Bruce Anderson and Commissioner Ava Podracky

Also present: Ben Martig, City Administrator; Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Alex Halverson, Youth Representative

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Haroldson, and Commissioner Halverson

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Vice Chair Hanson, to approve the consent agenda including the February 18, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes and a motion of support for a resolution proclaiming April 25, 2026 as Earth Day in Northfield. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Haroldson, and Commissioner Halverson

1. [26-140](#) February 18, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes
2. [Res. 2026-030](#) Consider a Motion of Support for Resolution Proclaiming April 25, 2026 as Earth Day in Northfield.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Chair Provancha reminded the EQC that City parks are now under the purview of this commission. Provancha also requested more information from City staff on Northfield's solar interconnectivity issues.
- Commissioner Petri reported on some letters to the editor (including her own) concerning electrical grid congestion in the Northfield News. Petri also reported on a webinar on grid congestion sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency which elicited online comments from Northfielders as well.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. [26-141](#) Update on Amendments to the Sustainable Building Policy (Section 8.06)

Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich presented an update on amendments to the Sustainable Building Policy (Section 8.06). Pabich responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

4. [26-142](#) 2026-2027 Work Plan Updates

The EQC and Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich reviewed the initiatives on the 2026-27 EQC Work Plan:

- 1 - Energy Efficiency Education: Commissioner Petri reported that this subgroup is planning tabling during RiverWalk. They will coordinate with Rotary Climate Action on outreach and materials, especially regarding available rebates. Pabich will send out a survey for EQC members to sign up for tabling dates and times.*
- 2 - Electric Vehicles: Vice-Chair Hanson reported on an upcoming virtual meeting with Recharge America, and he hopes one of their advocates might visit Northfield.*
- 3 - Active Transportation: Chair Provancha reported that this subgroup has not met yet.*
- 4 - Landscaping: Commissioner Shmurak reported that this subgroup has not met yet. Petri reported attending meetings of Prairie Partners, a local group focused on native plantings.*
- 5 - Waste Reduction: Commissioner Haraldson reported on her meeting scheduled for next week with the Northfield Public Library Youth Director regarding setting up a toy library.*
- 6 - Zero Waste: Haraldson is developing a training toolkit and will submit it to be put on the EQC agenda for review when it is complete.*

STAFF UPDATES

5. [26-143](#) Staff Update

Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich and City Administrator Ben Martig presented updates from City staff. Pabich and Martig responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Haroldson, and Commissioner Halverson