



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

7:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

Roll Call

Also Present: Beth Kallestad - Program Coordinator, Nicholas Boehning and Katie Schroeer - Youth Members, St. Olaf Students from EnvSt 237 Class, Barb Neitzel - Recording Secretary

Present: 5 - Alexandra Miller, Kim Smith, Matthew Rohn, Janet Petri and Carla Hansen

Absent: 2 - Brian Nowak and A. Joseph Hopwood

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Board Member Rohn, seconded by Board Member Smith, to approve the November 20, 2019 EQC Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn, Board Member Petri and Board Member Hansen

II. Approval of Minutes

1. [19-1182](#) October 10, 2019 EQC Minutes

Attachments: [1 - October 10, 2019 EQC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Board Member Rohn, seconded by Board Member Smith, to approve the October 10, 2019 EQC Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn, Board Member Petri and Board Member Hansen

Presentation

2. [19-1183](#) Presentation on Zero Waste from St. Olaf EnvSt 237 Class

Multiple St. Olaf students gave a presentation on Zero Waste and their efforts to help Northfield transition to zero waste by 2030. A handout with recommendations on future actions was distributed to the EQC members.

III. Unfinished Business

3. [19-1184](#) Review of proposed revisions to the Noxious Weed Ordinance

Attachments: [1 - Noxious Weed Resolutions Nov2019](#)

K. Smith reported on two resolutions related to revisions to the Noxious Weed Ordinance. The first resolution addresses invasive plant species. The key provision of this resolution states that any plant on the City's list of prohibited invasive plant species growing on any lot or parcel of land is declared to be a nuisance and dangerous to the health, safety and good order of the city.

The second resolution addresses the addition of the Amur Cork Tree to the list of prohibited plants.

Staff will follow up with Public Works staff to discuss any final concerns before bringing the resolutions to the City Council.

A motion was made by Board Member Miller, seconded by Board Member Rohn to recommend Resolution 1: Address Invasive Plant Species and forward to the City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

A motion was made by Board Member Rohn, seconded by Board Member Hansen to recommend Resolution 2: Add Amur Cork Trees to list of prohibited plants and forward to the City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn, Board Member Petri and Board Member Hansen

IV. New Business Items

4. [19-1185](#) Consider EQC Calendar and Work Plan for 2020

Attachments: [1-1Example DRAFT EQC Work Plan 2020](#)

[2 - Example 2020 Work Plan for EQC Draft_AMiller](#)

[3 - EXAMPLE HPC Action Plan 2019](#)

The EQC reviewed various work plan formats. A. Miller prepared a work plan related to the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. Staff noted the City Code allows for an ex officio member of the EQC to be on the Planning Commission. Staff will work on a three year target list to be reviewed by the EQC in December.

5. [19-1186](#) EQC officers in 2020

Staff noted the bylaws allow for the election of EQC officers at the last meeting of the year. The commission determined they would elect their officers at the January 2020 meeting.

V. Reports and Discussion Items

6. [19-1187](#) Staff Update from Program Coordinator

Staff reported on a McKnight Foundation Grant she is working on to assist with funding a

full time sustainability coordinator position as noted in the Climate Action Plan.

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Hansen to support the submission of a McKnight Foundation Grant. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn, Board Member Petri, and Board Member Hansen

Staff is also exploring how to connect climate data with a broader audience and conversations that would be happening with the Arts and Culture Commission around this topic.

- a) Commissioner Comments and Reports**
- b) Staff Updates and Reports**
- c) Comments from the Chair**

K. Smith updated the EQC on the Greater Sustainability Collaborative meeting scheduled for December 2, 2019 from 3:30 to 4:30.

A. Miller reported on a "Conversations on the Wonders of Science" presentation in partnership with the Cannon River Watershed Partnership and University of Minnesota that will be held on December 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Imminent Brewing.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn, Board Member Petri and Board Member Hansen