



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: 6 - Vice Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Chair Daniel Jones, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney and Commissioner Michelle Mattson

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Susannah Shmurak and Commissioner Jael Conde

Also present: Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator; Davin Sokup; Council Member, Non-Voting Ex Officio Member; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Mattson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [24-259](#) February 21, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1 - February 21, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Mattson, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to approve the February 21, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Mattson

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

- Breanna Wheeler of 328 North Linden Street spoke on her concerns for a lack of City plans for natural areas, specifically concerning the proposed disc golf course in Hauberg Woods

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [24-260](#) 2024 State of the City.

Attachments: [1 - 2024 State of the City address](#)
[2 - 2024 State of the City Program](#)

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim reviewed the State of the City address that took place on March 19, 2024. The video is available online for those who were unable to attend.

3. [24-282](#) 3. 24-359 Annual Report of Carbon Reduction Fund (2023)

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented the Annual Report of the Carbon Reduction Fund (2023). Karim responded to questions and comments from the Commissioners.

4. [24-263](#) Consider recommendation to the City Council for Resolution of support for Northfield Public School District efforts to implement a geothermal system at Northfield High School

Attachments: [1 - NSD Geothermal Resolution of Support](#)
[2 - Geothermal Letter to City \(002\)](#)

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim introduced the recommendation to the City Council for a resolution of support for Northfield Public School District efforts to implement a geothermal system at Northfield High School. The Commissioners discussed their support for the recommendation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kinney, to approve a recommendation to the City Council for a Resolution of support for the Northfield Public School District's efforts to implement a geothermal system at Northfield High School. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Mattson

5. [24-261](#) 2024 Work Plan Update

Attachments: [1 - 2024 Work Plan](#)
[2 - Zero Waste \(1\)](#)
[3 - Zero Waste Event Guide \(Long Version\)](#)

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented updates on and the Commissioners discussed the 2024 Annual Work Plan:

- *Zero Waste Plan: Northfield resident Matt Rohm spoke on prioritizing the reduction of single use plastic and the increase of organic waste composting and praised the efforts of the City to begin to address these issues. The Commissioners discussed Rohm's comments and the implementation of this plan so far. Council Member Davin Sokup offered to act as a liaison to City Council regarding the issue of zero waste events for City facilities and events sponsored by the City.*
- *Inflation Reduction Act Workshop Series: Commissioner Petri reported on other groups who are holding events focused around the Inflation Reduction Act. The Commissioners are awaiting more information on available rebates before organizing anything of their own.*
- *Active Living: Walk and Bike Campaign: Commissioner Anderson reported on his meeting with a representative of the Growing Up Healthy Initiative regarding a pilot project to encourage walking and biking by elementary school students as well as other possible initiatives. Anderson reminded the Commissioners that Annual Bike to School Day is Wednesday May 8, 2024.*
- *Food Education Campaign: Sophie, a student at St. Olaf College, reported on her and her colleagues' work to publicize the Food Education Campaign.*
- *Native Planting Promoting: Tree Planting & Vegetation: Chair Jones reported on his work to revise the existing Vegetation Management Plan.*

STAFF UPDATES**6. [24-262](#) Staff Update**

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim delivered updates from City staff. Karim responded to questions and comments from the Commissioners.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Petri reported on her invitation to watch a Zoom meeting on getting the word out on the Inflation Reduction Act

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Mattson