



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Thursday, December 13, 2018

7:00 PM

City Hall 2nd Floor Training Room

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chair Kim Smith called the December EQC meeting to order at 6:59pm.

A motion was made by Board Member Kinney, seconded by Board Member Rohn, to approve the December 2018 agenda as amended to include a Composting Update and a Climate Action Plan Survey Update. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. [18-594](#)

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes Nov-2018](#)

A motion was made by Board Member Rohn, seconded by Board Member Petri, to approve as amended the November 2018 Minutes under item 18-549:

1. Include agenda of next meeting as an item on each agenda
 2. Staff is requested to notify chair asap when additional agenda items come up
 3. Staff is requested to let EQC review plans etc when there is still opportunity to make changes
 4. Kim proposed that items shouldn't be sent to city council until the second reading
- All in favor. Motion carried.

III. Public Comment

Chris Meyer, the Southeast Regional Coordinator for the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) presented on two items:

1. *The Power of Minnesota movie is a free film about renewable energy in the state and is available for viewing here: <https://www.powerofmn.com/>*
2. *Northfield's GreenStep city Status: Currently, Northfield is at a level 3 of 5, but trending toward inactive because the information hasn't been updates since 2015. A community needs to make updates every three years to maintain its active status. Northfield currently has no coordinator. The EQC decided to add this to the January agenda.*

Cliff Martin from Northfield Composting, gave a brief presentation on the current status and future outlook for the organization:

1. *Currently, Northfield Composting has 400 subscribers, four co-owners, and six cubic yards of compost being send to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux site. Collection is happening on Mondays and Tuesdays around the community.*
2. *In the future, Northfield Composting hopes to expand to churches and small businesses, local compost processing, and adding a second vehicle for collection. The goal is to get to 1,000 subscribers before asking for a more formal mandate from the*

City.

Carla Hansen, EQC member and CAP Survey lead, presented a brief update about the Climate Action Plan Survey that was conducted throughout the month of October:

1. 1,053 people participated in the survey.
2. In general, community members are well informed and supportive about climate change and the city making changes to address it.
3. Major areas folks were interested in: Renewable Energy and Conservations, Water Conservation, Waste Diversion, and Carbon Sequestration.
4. Major areas where folks wanted to see more communication were: the City's website, community events, and email.

IV. Unfinished Business

2. [18-595](#) Discussion of a proposed draft prohibited tree list and Amur Cork Tree

Attachments: [Prohibited Tree List](#)
[Amur Cork Tree \(Phellodendorn amuren\) -- draft EQC resolution](#)

The Tree Group recommended that the City of Northfield establish its own prohibited tree list and that the amur cork tree be added to that list. It was suggested to change Chapter 86.1 of the Land Development Code text that will be further discussed at the January EQC meeting.

3. [18-596](#) EQC to receive a presentation on a proposed update to the Dark Skies section of the Land Development Code.

Attachments: [Dark Sky Policy Update presentation](#)
[Nfld Amended Dark Sky Policy](#)

Youth Member Nick presented information about the current City Code that includes information about proper lighting for Dark Skies and made recommendations based off of example ordinances from the Dark Ski Association for Northfield's code. The changes suggested are as follows:

C4E: Regulate color temperature

C4F: Require lighting controls in designated zones

D12: Enforcement: add an audit system and public nuisance provision.

After discussion, it was decided to proceed with a formal resolution from EQC was needed and will be read at the February EQC meeting.

V. New Business Items

4. [18-597](#) Discussion of the second reading rule.

Changes to EQC Bylaws:

1. *Second Reading Rule: amend section 5 to include that any member may require a second reading on a given resolution at a following meeting and the other members must honor that request.*
2. *Mailing: amend to include email as an acceptable form of communication to members.*
3. *These changes will be discussed and voted on at the February EQC meeting.*

5. [18-598](#) Discussion of 2019 agenda items.

EQC discussed overall agenda items to be covered in the next year as well as items for the January Agenda:

- 1. Green Step Cities Survey*
- 2. Climate Action Plan Survey Presentation*
- 3. Elections of new Chair and Vice Chair*
- 4. Noxious Plant Amendment to Land Development Code*
- 5. Presentation for all new members for orientation to EQC*
- 6. Climate Action Plan Advisory Board Quarterly Update*

For the year, the EQC discussed a review of the 8 sections of the Land Development Code that would support the work of the Climate Action Plan Advisory Board.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Board Member Kinney, seconded by Board Member Petri, to adjourn the December 2018 meeting at 8:25pm. The motion carried unanimously.