



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, May 20, 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 6:00 p.m.

Present: 7 - Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak, Vice Chair Rob Hanson, Commissioner Ava Podracky, Commissioner Kimberly Haroldson and Commissioner Simon Pryor

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 Vice Chair Hanson, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Podracky, to approve the consent agenda containing the April 15, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor

1. [26-271](#) April 15, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Mitchell spoke in favor of the City supporting No Mow May (now Slow Mow Summer).

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Pryor introduced himself to the EQC.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [26-272](#) Election of Environmental Quality Commission Officers of Chair and

Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Shmurak nominated Vice Chair Hanson as Chair. Hanson accepted.

Commissioner Petri nominated Shmurak as Vice Chair. Shmurak declined. Shmurak nominated Chair Provancha as Vice Chair. Provancha accepted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Podracky, to approve the election of Vice Chair Hanson as Chair for 2026-2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to approve the election of Chair Provancha as Vice Chair for 2026-2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor

3. [26-273](#)

Annual Board and Commission Onboarding and Refresher.

City Administrator Ben Martig and Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich provided the Annual Board and Commission Onboarding and Refresher, giving information on the roles and responsibilities of the EQC and its relationship with City staff.

4. [26-274](#)

2026-2027 Work Plan Updates

The EQC reported on their recent activity on the 2026-2027 EQC Work Plan initiatives.

- Energy Efficiency Education for Residents: Commissioner Petri and others will be tabling at Riverwalk Market Fair and will be checking with Rotary to see what materials they have that can be distributed at the tabling.*
- Electric Vehicle Community Showcase: Vice Chair Hanson reported that there will be an EV outreach event in conjunction with Recharge America on September 26, 2026.*
- Active Transportation Awareness Campaign: Vice Chair Hanson reported that the subcommittee has met and discussed ways to keep pedestrians, runners, and bicyclists to be more visible and safe at night including lights and reflective materials that could be distributed by the EQC.*
- Landscaping & Native Planting Research: Commissioner Shmurak reported on passing out seed packets and fliers at the Earth Day event and hopes to continue that at the tabling at Riverwalk. The subcommittee also hopes to provide more information and education to the public regarding Slow Mow Summer (formerly No Mow May) and best practices regarding plantings supporting pollinators, possibly through the City's website and social media accounts.*
- Waste Reduction Library Research: Provancha reported on the research and discussions conducted by the subcommittee on establishing a toy library at the Northfield Public Library.*
- Recycling and Compost Education Toolkit: Commissioner Haroldson reported on the presentation kit she has developed for public education. She hopes to present it to the EQC for approval at the July or August 2026 EQC meeting.*

The EQC discussed next steps and protocol for the operation of these subcommittees.

STAFF UPDATES

5. [26-275](#) Staff Update

Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich provided updates from City staff.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Podracky, seconded by Vice Chair Hanson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor