



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, August 21, 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 6:00 p.m.

Present: 6 - Vice Chair Michael Provancha, Chair Daniel Jones, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak, Commissioner Michelle Mattson, and Commissioner Ava Podracky

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Jael Conde

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chair Provancha, seconded by Commissioner Mattson, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Provancha, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Commissioner Mattson, and Commissioner Podracky

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [24-507](#) July 17, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1 - July 17, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Petri, seconded by Commissioner Shmurak, to approve the July 17, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Provancha, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Commissioner Mattson, and Commissioner Podracky

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Mitchell representing Zero Waste Northfield spoke in favor of Petition on Eliminating Reliance on Single Use Plastic

Matt Rohm representing Zero Waste Northfield spoke in favor of Petition on Eliminating Reliance on Single Use Plastic

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [24-508](#) Petition Discussion: Eliminating Reliance on Single Use Plastic

Attachments: [Petition.Group1](#)
[Petition.Group2](#)

The EQC discussed the Petition on Eliminating Reliance on Single Use Plastic presented by Zero Waste Northfield. Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided context from City Staff on the Climate Action Plan and the Zero Waste Plan and current actions being taken to implement those plans. Chair Jones invited the representatives of Zero Waste Northfield to meet with him and other members of the EQC to discuss their petition.

3. [24-509](#) Compostable Products Policy

Attachments: [1 - 2.7 Compostable Products Policy](#)

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented for discussion by the EQC the recommended Compostable Products Policy. Karim responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

4. [24-510](#) 2024 Work Plan Update

Attachments: [1 - 2024 Work Plan July](#)
[2 - Zero Waste Event Guide NFLD DRAFT](#)
[3 - Nfld City Code 86-1 Weeds_current](#)
[4 - Wild-Ones-Sample-Native-Plant-Ord](#)

- Zero Waste Plan Implementation - A Carleton College student produced a draft of promotional materials for the Zero Waste Plan which was further refined by City Communications Staff.

- Inflation Reduction Act Workshop Series - Commissioner Petri (with the collaboration of other Commissioners) has conducted successful tabling events at the Riverwalk Market Fair.

- Active Living: Walk and Bike Campaign - Commissioners Anderson and Conde are working with the Healthy Communities Initiative to form a bike-pool for school students.

- Food Education Campaign - This campaign has been completed and the promotional materials are undergoing rebranding to include the new City logo.

- Native Planting Promoting: Tree Planting & Vegetation - Chair Jones would like to meet with City staff to discuss updates to the City Code regarding native plantings on residential parkways and present a proposal to the City Council.

STAFF UPDATES

5. [24-511](#) Staff Update.

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented updates from City staff.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Provancha and Chair Jones volunteered to greet and have lunch with the visitors from Africa on October 8, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Mattson, seconded by Commissioner Shmurak, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Provancha, Chair Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Commissioner Mattson, and Commissioner Podracky