



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

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 Bruce Anderson, Commissioner Daniel Jones, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak and Vice Chair Rob Hanson

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Jael Conde

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak and Vice Chair Hanson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [25-202](#) March 19, 2025 EQC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Petri, seconded by Commissioner Shmurak, to approve the March 19, 2025 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak and Vice Chair Hanson

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [25-203](#) Annual Report of Carbon Reduction Fund (2024).

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim delivered a presentation on the Annual Report of the Carbon Reduction Fund (2024). Karim responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

Matt Rohm of 908 First Street West spoke on the importance of having St. Olaf and Carleton College students contribute their knowledge and energy to City carbon reduction efforts.

3. [25-204](#)

Zero Waste Plan Implementation: Single Use Carryout Bag Fee Initiative

The EQC discussed the questions in the business and residential survey on carryout bag pass-through charges. The survey will be launched on Earth Day with wider distribution in June. Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided additional details on the launch of the survey and responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

Matt Rohm of 908 First Street West spoke on the educational efforts of Zero Waste Northfield on the reduction of the use of non-reusable carryout and grocery bags.

Northfield Earth Day co-chair Carla Hansen provided additional context on the survey design.

4. [25-205](#)

2025 Work Plan Updates

- Zero Waste Plan Implementation: This initiative continues through the survey discussed earlier in the meeting.*
- Community Engagement Campaign: Energy Efficiency, HVAC Contractor and Homeowner Education: Commissioner Petri updated the EQC on the upcoming educational and promotional opportunities, starting with Earth Day tabling. Commissioner Anderson reported on the educational efforts of the local Rotary.*
- Native Planting Ordinance: Tree Planting & Vegetation: Commissioner Jones reported on this subcommittee's upcoming meeting with City staff regarding potential changes to this ordinance. Commissioner Petri reported on a Citizens' Climate Action event where City Horticulturalist Shelly Evanson discussed tree planting in the City.*
- Water Quality and Conservation: Commissioner Shmurak reported on a meeting with City staff to create public educational materials regarding water conservation efforts.*
- Research Level 3 Charger Use and Need: Vice Chair Hanson reported that there are no formal updates on this initiative but work continues.*

STAFF UPDATES

5. [25-206](#)

Staff Update.

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided updates from City staff. Karim responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

Northfield Earth Day co-chair Carla Hansen provided additional information on Earth Day events.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Vice Chair Hanson requested information from the City on sustainable heating and cooling in the planned new ice arena.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Kinney, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak and Vice Chair Hanson