

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Thursday, April 12, 2018

7:00 PM

2nd Floor Training Room

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chair Kim Smith called the April EQC meeting to order at 7:00pm.

A motion was made to approve the April 2018 agenda as amended to include the addition of a climate action planning update. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. [18-188](#)

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

Because Wanda Playter could not be at the meeting, Matt Rohn volunteered to keep the minutes for the April 2018 meeting.

A motion was made to approve the March 2018 minutes as amended to read "Kim and Katie" to add additional links and suggested changes to the presentation. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

There were none.

IV. Unfinished Business

A CAP update was provided by Alex and Justin: The first meeting of the advisory group will take place soon. It will be with city staff to learn the basics of protocols such as open meeting law rules. Questions arose how open meeting regulations will impact advisory board members being at the Earthday event and EQC members as well. Justin decided that it would be best to make the event a publicly declared event for both the CAP group and EQC and this should be done for Carleton College class presentation preceding the May EQC meeting as well. On May 10, a Carleton class studying sustainability will do a presentation starting at 6 pm. This will be for both the CAP advisory group and EQC, and the CAP group will meet with EQC at 7 p.m. when its regularly scheduled meeting is. Two voting members representing greater Northfield were added to the advisory group: Mary Jo Cristofaro and Bruce Moreland.

2. [18-189](#)

Northfield Spring Clean-up Days - May 5th and May 12th

Alex asked if there was ever a curbside service and learned that there has not been one. She asked how many tons of refuse this event generated? Justin did not know. How it is being publicized was discussed. The discussion ended with thoughts about there having been in the past volunteer groups pulling out reusable items. There is no known group doing that this year, and EQC members wondered if one might still be found.

3. [18-190](#) Update on Earth Day

Attachments: [2018 Members and Goals](#)

Guest Mary Jo Cristofaro offered a quick overview of what would take place, how it would serve climate action planning, how it was being publicized, and how everything was falling into place.

4. [18-191](#) Update on the City of Northfield's Emerald Ash Borer Policy

Attachments: [EAB Policy](#)

Justin and older EQC members brought newer members up to speed on this. A question arose about policy on this heading into the coming year. Justin explained the City budgeting process and how there is a desire to determine the amount of money available and write a policy in accordance with that. This discussion generated interest in an Urban Forest Management Plan. Justin informed commissioners that one had been created in 2014 but never approved by City Council. George provided some the history of this and Pat Allen's advocacy of it and role in drafting one. Money may exist from her initiative to do more with this. The discussion also raised questions about giving away trees for Earthday this year. There presently are no trees to give away. If DSI offers some to the city, the preference is to put them in parks rather than do the Earthday raffle because often residents never picked up their raffle tree.

V. New Business Items

5. [18-192](#) Discussion of Garbage Contract.

Attachments: [SIGNED DSI Refuse Contract](#)

Justin offered a quick summary of the types of things we might want to consider including if the contract renewal should go through the RFP process or be a simple renegotiation, etc. Questions arose about possible weekly recycle pickups and residents paying less for smaller trash containers.

Kim had a number of areas of inquiry she urged us to pursue with DSI:

- Have there been any changes in the company?*
- What sustainability actions has it pursued?*
- What have their customer waste reduction programs been and how successful have they been?*
- Where does yard waste go (especially Christmas trees)?*
- Have there been any complaints and concerns registered that we should know?*

Alex and others added more things to learn: What divertability information might there be? Do they have a commodity and service opportunity analyses? What are plans down the road? We discussed the value of curbside composting. Justin noted that the current contract keeps that possibility open and we would likely want that in any new contract. The desire for smaller containers than those made available was discussed.

VI. Adjournment