



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, July 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 6:01 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 Ava Podracky

Also present: Jake Reilly, Community Development Director; Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator; David Bennett, Public Works Director and City Engineer; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Erica Zweifel, Mayor; Davin Sokup, Council Member (Non-Voting Ex Officio Member)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Petri, 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. [25-373](#) June 18, 2025 EQC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to approve the June 18, 2025 EQC 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

PRESENTATIONS

2. [25-374](#) Informational presentation on performance standards for data centers in the Land Development Code.

Community Development Director Jake Reilly delivered an informational presentation on performance standards for data centers in the Land Development Code. Public Works Director and City Engineer David Bennett provided additional context. Reilly and Bennett responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

No Board Member or Commissioner reports were received.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. [25-375](#) Discuss Services Related to Expiring Residential Waste Hauling Contract w/DSI and Upcoming Proposal Request.

Public Works Director and City Engineer David Bennett provided background on the City's current residential waste hauling contract with DSI and the City's upcoming proposal request. Bennett responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

Cliff Martin, representing Curbside Compost Co-op, reported on the groundbreaking of their local compost processing site and requested an opportunity to provide a proposal to the City for citywide compost pickup.

Malcolm Watt, representing Junk Truck MN, spoke in favor of an e-waste drop-off site in the area and the availability of haulers' licenses for e-waste haulers in the local area.

Matt Rohm spoke in favor of expansion of city-wide compost and e-waste pickup.

4. [25-376](#) Draft Carryout Bag Ordinance and Community Engagement Efforts

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented the Draft Carryout Bag Ordinance and Community Engagement Efforts. Karim responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

5. [25-377](#) 2025 Work Plan Updates

The members of the EQC provided updates on the initiatives in the 2025 EQC Work Plan.

- Zero Waste Plan Implementation: The ordinance has been proposed.

- Community Engagement Campaign: Energy Efficiency, HVAC Contractor and Homeowner Education: Commissioner Anderson reported that this group has met with Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim, Rotary Climate Action, and Rice County Habitat for Humanity regarding a public engagement and education event on available tax credits and incentives. The event is tentatively scheduled for November 5, 2025 at Northfield Community Resource Center.

- Native Planting Ordinance: Tree Planting & Vegetation: Commissioner Jones reported that this group will review the Land Development Code and possible revisions to the existing Urban Forestry Development Plan.

- Water Quality & Conservation: Commissioner Shmurak reported that this group would like to add a discussion of publicity materials to the next EQC agenda.

- Research Level 3 Charger Use and Need: Chair Provancha reported that this initiative is complete.

STAFF UPDATES

6. [25-378](#)

Staff Update.

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim presented updates from City Staff. Karim responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Shmurak, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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