



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Provancha called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: 7 - Vice Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Michelle Mattson, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak and Commissioner Jael Conde

Absent: 1 - Chair Daniel Jones

Also present: Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Ava Podracky, Youth Representative (non-voting)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Mattson, Commissioner Shmurak and Commissioner Conde

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [24-687](#) October 16, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1 - October 16, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Mattson, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the October 16, 2024 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Mattson, Commissioner Shmurak and Commissioner Conde

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [24-688](#) Discussion regarding the 2025 Work Plan

Attachments: [1 - 2024 Work Plan Consideration](#)
[2 - 2025 Work Plan Consideration](#)

The EQC discussed possible initiatives for the 2025 Work Plan that were collected by City Staff in the 2025 Work Plan Submissions for Consideration document. Specific ideas that emerged were:

- Native plantings, incentives for the use of electric yard maintenance implements and water conservation in landscaping. Commissioner Shmurak would be interested in leading this initiative.
- Urban forestry, including retention or improvement of the City's tree canopy.
- Commissioner Mattson invited her Carleton College colleague Rob Hanson of 915 2nd Street West to the podium, and both of them spoke on the possibility of the EQC encouraging new building projects that receive city funding to exceed current sustainable building guidelines.
- Commissioner Petri wants to continue her outreach efforts to promote home energy efficiency improvement incentives, including possible grants and rebated that might be part of the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Commissioner Shmurak is interested in promoting existing energy efficiency incentives via social media and local media.
- Several members of the EQC are interested in promoting the adoption of heat pumps by homeowners.
- Continuation of the reduction of plastic waste initiative.
- Encouragement of disaster and emergency preparedness including households having enough food and water available to them.
- Improving local transportation infrastructure such as public transportation and installations of electric vehicle chargers.
- Continued exploration of city-wide curbside composting options.

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided context and information on existing and future city initiatives.

3. [24-689](#) 2024 Work Plan Update

Attachments: [1 - 2024 WorkPlan Update November](#)

The EQC and Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim discussed progress on the 2024 EQC Work Plan:

- Zero Waste Plan Implementation: This will likely continue into 2025
- Inflation Reduction Act Workshop Series: This will likely continue into 2025
- Active Living: Walk and Bike Campaign: No updates on this initiative
- Food Education Campaign: Complete
- Native Planting Promoting: Tree Planting & Vegetation: Chair Jones and Commissioners Kinney and Shmurak continue to work on this initiative and it will continue into 2025

STAFF UPDATES

4. [24-690](#) Staff Update.

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided updates from City staff, including the rejection by Xcel Energy of the city's proposal to add solar panels to the Northfield Community Resource Center. The EQC discussed this issue, and Karim responded to their questions and comments.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Anderson requested information from Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim on the priorities of the incoming new mayor regarding environmental quality issues.

ADJOURNMENT

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

- Yes:** 7 - Vice Chair Provancha, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Mattson, Commissioner Shmurak and Commissioner Conde