



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

Chair Petri called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Michael Provancha, Commissioner Daniel Jones, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney and Commissioner Luke Pegram

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bruce Anderson

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Provancha, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Pegram

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [23-1482](#)

September 20, 2023 EQC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1 - September 20, 2023 EQC Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Provancha, to approve the September 20, 2023 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Provancha, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Pegram

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Aiden, a student at Carleton College representing the Center for Community and Civic Engagement, volunteered their services to assist the EQC with anything they might need.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [23-1516](#) 2023 Work Plan Update**Attachments:** [1-EQC 2023 Work Plan](#)[2-RespondingToClimateChangeFlyer](#)[3 - PiE-MN-Northfield-Open House Flyer English](#)

- Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided an update on Reduction of Single Plastic Use in the City of Northfield. New 3-stream trash bins have been delivered to City Hall and the Library. Commissioner Kinney suggested the Carleton CCCE students could help with this roll out. Commissioner Provancha has met with Kinney to further work on this initiative.

- Karim provided an update on the Inflation Reduction Act Public Forum scheduled for November 2, 2023. The event is shaping up nicely with panelists and a contractor confirmed and the flyer out in the public. Chair Petri encouraged all homeowners to attend. Commissioner Provancha informed the Commission on some of the difficulties in having local contractors participate

- Commissioner Jones has received comments on the Urban Forestry Management draft report. Jones and Commissioner Kinney expect to deliver a new draft to the EQC in November.

- Karim is working on the Climate Action Plan Update which will be delivered, along with an Xcel Energy Partners in Energy update, at the Energy Open House next week on October 25, 2023. All commissioners are asked to attend the event.

- Karim reported that the Green Welcome Packet is available in the hallway of City Hall and is being distributed widely.

- On the topic of Energy Action Items, Karim reported that the Energy Open House is next week on October 25, 2023. The District Energy System study group will be touring Post facilities on October 19, 2023. The participation of Post will be essential to the future of this project. Commissioners provided comments on the project and Karim responded to their questions.

- Karim reminded the Commission that the EQC Annual Work Plan process will begin in November 2023.

STAFF UPDATES**3. [23-1517](#)** Staff Update

Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim provided updates from City Staff to the EQC.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

4. [23-1518](#) Commissioner Comments**Attachments:** [1 - IMG_0081](#)[2 - IMG_0082](#)[3 - IMG_0083](#)[4 - IMG_0084](#)[5 - IMG_0085](#)

- Commissioner Provancha delivered an update on the collaborative project with the Artists of Main Street, the Northfield Library, and Independent Artist Rocky Casillas Aguirre as well as progress made on the tree and wildflower planting idea on Northfield School District grounds.
- Commissioner Jones welcomed the input and offer of assistance from the Carleton CCCE students and encouraged their involvement with tree and wildflower planting in the City. Chair Petri concurred and encouraged their involvement with public outreach concerning the work of the EQC.
- Assistant to the City Administrator Risi Karim responded to a question from Chair Petri regarding the hiring process for the City grant-writer position.
- Jones requested comment from the CCCE representative regarding what initiatives they might be able to help with. Karim encouraged the participation of the Carleton group next month in the 2024 EQC Annual Work Plan process.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Provancha, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Pegram