



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Roll Call

Also Present: Beth Kallestad - Program Coordinator, Lucy Menssen - Youth Member, Erica Zweifel - Councilmember, Ted Redmond - paleBLUEdot LLC, Barb Neitzel - Recording Secretary

Present: 5 - Janet Petri, Brian Nowak, Kim Smith, Mika Turner and Bruce Anderson

Absent: 1 - Carla Hansen

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chair Smith added an item to discuss the creation of a carbon reduction fund after item #3.

A motion was made by Board Member Anderson, seconded by Board Member Turner, to approve the August 19, 2020 EQC Agenda as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Petri, Board Member Nowak, Board Member Smith, Board Member Turner and Board Member Anderson

1. [20-422](#) Information on How to Provide Public Input and Watch the Meeting During the Pandemic.

Attachments: [1 - EQC Reg Mtg electronic meeting](#)

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Board Member Petri, seconded by Board Member Turner, to approve the July 15, 2020 EQC Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Petri, Board Member Nowak, Board Member Smith, Board Member Turner and Board Member Anderson

2. [20-423](#) July 15, 2020 EQC Minutes

Attachments: [1 - 07-15-20 EQC Minutes](#)

IV. New Business Items

3. [20-424](#) Solar for Northfield Presentation

Attachments: [1 - Hyperlink](#)

Staff noted an item to approve an abbreviated version of the report will be discussed at the September 15, 2020 Council meeting.

Ted Redmond, paleBLUEdot LLC, presented findings of the report and potential work on on-site approaches the City could take moving forward. The primary goal is to achieve 100% carbon free energy for all City facilities and the supporting goal is cost efficiency.

The full report can be found at:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21ABfVcmxO5fJglE&cid=CB639961CB98C435&id=CB639961CB98C435%2195682&parId=CB639961CB98C435%2122283&o=OneUp>

B. Nowak questioned jobs created with this proposal. T. Redmond stated there would be approximately 50 jobs created with 15 of them being full time.

J. Petri asked about the condition of the arena. T. Redmond noted they did not perform a structural assessment of City buildings but that would be done as part of the proposal.

Staff added City staff is supportive of the project but funding and finance are still in question.

Councilmember Zweifel encouraged B. Kallestad's position to continue and will work to add it as a budget requirement.

Creation of Carbon Reduction Fund

Staff reported on a resolution directing the Finance Director to establish a Carbon Reduction Fund and for the City Administrator to develop a policy that details the use of these funds for projects within the city. This item will be discussed in more detail at the September EQC meeting prior to forwarding on to the City Council.

III. Unfinished Business

4. [20-425](#) Climate Action Plan Policies

Attachments: [1 - Building Benchmarking](#)

Staff gave a presentation on Building Benchmarking which includes asking community buildings to track their energy consumption. It is a time intensive project that would start out as a voluntary program and go from there.

Chair Smith reported she met with some Planning Commission members regarding updates to the Land Development Code and how to maintain communication between the EQC and PC. It was suggested the EQC appoint a member to serve as a liaison to the Planning Commission. B. Nowak offered to attend meetings that include policy changes to the LDC.

Staff also noted there will be small group meetings between her and Joe Gasior, Betsey Buckheit, Tracy Davis Heisler, and City Planner Mikayla Schmidt to discuss future changes.

5. [20-426](#) Staff Updates & Commissioner Comments

Attachments: [1 - revised final draft A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING A FEDERAL REVENUE-NEUTRAL MARKET-BASED FEE ON CARBON IN FOSSIL FUELS-3](#)

Staff noted, as part of the fleet study, trackers have been installed in all City vehicles and will remain in them for 90 days.

V. Reports and Discussion Items

- a) Commissioner Comments and Reports
- b) Staff Updates and Reports
- c) Comments from the Chair

Working Group Updates

- Food Group: The food map has been updated and will be brought forward to a future meeting.

- Urban Forestry Group: Chair Smith will attend the August Park Board Meeting to discuss converting lawn in Jefferson Park to prairie and forest.

- Transportation Group: B. Anderson took part in the August 4th MN350 Clean Transportation event. Comments are due the end of August.

- Water Group: Working on education articles for existing rain garden and rain barrel programs.

The EQC briefly discussed a resolution supporting Federal legislation authorizing a Federal, revenue-neutral, market based fee on carbon in fossil fuels which fits in with the Climate Action Plan. It will be discussed further in September.

September EQC Agenda Items:

- CAC Presentation on housing project*
- Discussion and motion - Supporting Federal legislation on carbon fee*
- Discussion and motion - Creation of Carbon Reduction Fund*
- Information/Discussion - Water Group articles*

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Board Member Nowak, seconded by Board Member Petri, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Petri, Board Member Nowak, Board Member Smith, Board Member Turner and Board Member Anderson