



# City of Northfield

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

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Wednesday, August 17, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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

*Also Present: Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator/Staff Liaison; Rhonda Pownell, Mayor*

**Chair Turner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Commissioner Daniel Jones, Commissioner Michael Zenner, Chair Mika Turner and Commissioner Lucy Menssen

**Absent:** 2 - Vice Chair Evan Pak and Commissioner Janet Petri

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the agenda as is. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Zenner, Chair Turner and Commissioner Menssen

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [22-526](#) July 20th, 2022 EQC Meeting Minutes.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Zenner, to approve the minutes as is. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Zenner, Chair Turner and Commissioner Menssen

**Abstained:** 1 - Commissioner Anderson

### PUBLIC COMMENT

*There were no public comments.*

### PRESENTATIONS

2. [22-527](#) Presentation on Clean Energy Transition Plan from Nokomis Energy.

*Brendan Dillon from Nokomis Energy provided a status update on the Clean Energy Transition Plan. The City has contracted with Nokomis Energy to develop possible scenarios for in-boundary carbon-free solar energy to meet the goals set out in the City's Climate Action Plan.*

*Dillon laid out the three primary goals of the Clean Energy Transition Plan: (1) 100% carbon-free electricity by 2030, (2) 10% in-boundary generation by 2030, and (3)*

*interconnection capacity to support residential systems.*

*Dillon laid out the four phases of the plan: (2023-2022; Phase 1) DERMS Pilot plus Energy Park, (2024-2027; Phase 2) Energy Park plus Commercial & Residential Solar, (2026-2028; Phase 3) Demand response plus more generation, and (2027-2030; Phase 4) Solve for the final elements. He went into the details of the four phases.*

*Assistant to the City Administrator and EQC Staff Liaison Risi Karim laid out the time line for the Clean Energy Transition Plan. The presentation will be given to the City Council for their review in September. In October, the EQC will be asked to approve the final plan. After EQC approval, the Clean Energy Transition Plan will come before Council for their approval.*

*Dillon and Karim answered questions from Commission Members.*

*Members of the public were given the opportunity to speak and ask questions of the presenter. Beth Kallestad and Martha Larson offered public comment.*

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 3. [22-528](#) Northfield News Monthly Series Opinion Piece.

*Chair Turner introduced the item. Commissioner Anderson offered his approval of the Northfield News Monthly Opinion Piece.*

*Commissioner Jones inquired if the high school environmental group and EQC youth representatives would be interested in writing one of the upcoming pieces. Youth representative Lucy Menssen will look into it further for October.*

*For September, Risi Karim will inquire with Master Recyclers program to see if they would be interested in writing the September piece.*

*Members of the public were given the opportunity to comment.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Zenner, to approve the Northfield News Monthly Series Opinion Piece as is. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Zenner, Chair Turner and Commissioner Menssen

### 4. [22-529](#) EQC Discusses Work Plan Updates and Progress.

*Chair Mika Turner introduced the item and asked commissioners for updates.*

*Commissioner Bruce Anderson discussed his work with the Northfield Public School District regarding solar energy and electric school bus rebate potentials.*

*Commissioner Daniel Jones discussed his work on a draft of the Urban Forest Management Plan.*

*Commissioner Michael Zenner reached out to Xcel regarding their advanced metering program and his research into Toledo Solar and their recyclable solar panels.*

*Chair Turner discussed two upcoming items she was made aware of. The Resilient*

*Cities and Communities Group Annual Meeting will be October 5th at the Minneapolis Central Library. Xcel is partnering with auto dealerships regarding EV options on August 25.*

*Members of the public were given the opportunity to comment.*

5. [22-530](#)

Staff Update.

*Assistant to the City Administrator /Staff Liaison Risi Karim discussed the 2022 EV Recharge Event which will be held October 15. She will follow up with members once more information is available.*

*Karim also discussed the issues members are having with receiving the EQC packet through the City's Notify Me option. Staff will look into the issues.*

*She also discussed a work plan for 2023 and how it will be limited to fewer, more attainable items from the Climate Action Plan.*

## REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND CHAIR

*There were no additional reports from commission members.*

## ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Zenner, Chair Turner and Commissioner Menssen