

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Thursday, March 9, 2017

7:00 PM

City Hall 2nd Floor Training Room

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chairman George Kinney called the March EQC meeting to order at 7:01pm.

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Miller, to amend the agenda to add an update from Cliff Martin on curbside organic composting. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Board Member Rohn, seconded by Board Member Smith, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

1. [17-685](#)

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes Feb-2017](#)

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Unfinished Business

2. [17-686](#)

Northfield Energy Working Group Update

The Energy Working Group shared the following letter with EQC members -

To: Northfield Environmental Quality Commission From: Northfield Energy Working Group

Re: Materials for Strategic Planning Process

Dear Environmental Quality Commission,

At the February EQC meeting, the Northfield Energy Working Group (NEWG) was asked to revise the draft resolution we proposed which would commit the City of Northfield to write a community-wide climate action plan. Since that meeting, it has become clear that EQC's immediate next step in this process is to engage in the City Council's strategic planning process by submitting a recommendation of environmental priorities.

The NEWG is therefore submitting for your consideration both a revised draft Climate Action Plan resolution as requested and a set of information, resources and materials for use by the Environmental Quality Commission as you prepare your contributions to the City of Northfield strategic planning process. Please note that although this document is in the form of a Powerpoint slide deck, it is not intended to be a formal presentation for broader distribution. It is rather a collection of information from which you can select components that best support your submission to the strategic planning initiative.

We thank the EQC for serving as the community's conduit to champion environmental

priorities, to propel actions that both mitigate and adapt to threats caused by climate change, and to foster a livable planet that ensures the health and prosperity of future generations. Without a healthy planet to support us, all other strategic goals, plans and visions for the future will be severely undermined if not impossible to achieve. Although significant effort and resources will be required to implement a community-wide Climate Action planning process and its outcomes, the time has come to commit wholeheartedly to this essential civic responsibility.

Sincerely,

Members of the Northfield Energy Friends

Pat Allen, Bruce Anderson, Mary Jo Cristofaro, Carla Hansen, George Kinney, Martha Larson

The Engery Working group also perseted the following draft resolution followed by a presentation of the work they have accomplished and where they would like to go in the future -

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA'S CITY COUNCIL, TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING OF A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP) TO ENSURE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

Whereas, Minnesota is vulnerable to the effects of a changing climate such unpredictable and increasingly severe precipitation patterns along with rising air temperature that will have adverse effects on our residents, water, agriculture, and ecosystem and our economy.

Whereas, Minnesotans are already incurring the costs associated with a changing climate such as increasing insurance rates, heat-related health emergencies, and disruption to farming and other local industries.

Whereas, creating a more environmentally sustainable and resilient community strengthens the social, economic and physical health of Northfield residents, enhancing overall the desirability and quality of life of our community

Whereas, in 2005 the City of Northfield began the process of committing to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by completing the first milestone of the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and other environmentally-focused efforts such as the Greenstep Cities program, have continued to reinforce our community's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Northfield City Council will create and implement a climate action plan (CAP) to reduce Northfield's community-wide greenhouse gases, to increase Northfield's community resilience in response to a changing climate and to ensure a livable planet for current and future generations.

3. [17-687](#)

Environmental Quality Commission's Strategic Planning Topics

Attachments: [Draft EQC report to City Council](#)

The EQC has been asked to meet with a facilitator on April 6th to help with the City Council strategic planning process. Discussion was held on areas of interest and importance as well as wording to convey the commissions highest priorities. The Climate Action Plan consistently came out on top with many other environmental issues falling under that umbrella. It was decided that the commission would continue to work through changes to be presented to Kim who will present the EQC's priorities to the facilitator on April 6th.

A motion was made by Board Member Rohn, seconded by Board Member Martin, to have Kim S. make changes to the strategic planning priorities document to be presented to the City Council facilitator on April 6th to include feedback from EQC members who will have a chance to review the document before it is presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. [17-688](#) Earth Day and Arbor Day Update

Attachments: [Honeycrisp.pdf](#)
[Autumn Blaze Maple.pdf](#)

*The official designation of Earth Day and Arbor Day were passed at City Council on March 8th.
EQC will have a table at the City of Northfield Earth Day Celebration on April 22nd at the Weitz Center. The working schedule for tabling will be finalized at the April EQC meeting.*

IV. New Business Items

5. [17-689](#) Northfield Spring Clean-up Days - May 6th and May 13th

Citywide clean up days will be held May 6th and 13th at the maintenance facility from 7am - 11am.

Cliff Martin updated EQC on the progress of curbside organic recycling, which is scheduled to launch the first week of May. A second organic dumpster will be placed at the compost site. 5 gallon buckets will be distributed to the 200 current subscribers at the Earth Day Celebration, with an opportunity for more to subscribe.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Miller, to adjourn the MArch EQC meeting at 8:50pm. The motion carried unanimously.