



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Thursday, June 13, 2019

7:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

Roll Call

*Also Present: Justin Wagner - Utilities Manager, Martha Larson, Barb Neitzel -
Recording Secretary*

Present: 4 - Alexandra Miller, Kim Smith, Matthew Rohn and Carla Hansen

Absent: 3 - Janet Petri, Brian Nowak and A. Joseph Hopwood

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Board Member Rohn, seconded by Board Member Smith, to amend the June 13 EQC Agenda to add the endorsement of the Memo of Understanding with Xcel Energy Partners and EQC recommendation for carbon neutrality date. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn and Board Member Hansen

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Board Member Rohn, seconded by Board Member Hansen, to approve the May 9, 2019 EQC Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn and Board Member Hansen

1. [19-917](#) May 9, 2019 EQC Minutes

Attachments: [05-09-19 EQC Minutes](#)

III. Unfinished Business

IV. New Business Items

2. [19-918](#) Presentation and review of the Energy Subcommittee Report.

Attachments: [1 - Northfield Energy Subcommittee Report 052819](#)

Martha Larson presented the Energy Subcommittee Report that was developed by the Energy Subcommittee of the Climate Action Plan. It is a separate report that is a continuation of the 2008 Energy Task Force Committee Report that was never officially adopted. It allows for the City to continue to work with Xcel Energy on the 18-month Energy Jump Start items that includes strategies to help Northfield meet their carbon reduction targets. Outreach is focused on small consumers (homeowners, renters, small businesses) and large consumers (colleges, hospitals, large and industrial business). The MOU will be voted on at the July 23, 2019 City Council Meeting. Beth Kallestad - Program Coordinator, will be in charge of implementing roles and responsibilities.

EQC members spoke in favor of the report and thanked Martha for her efforts.

Endorse Memo of Understanding with Xcel Energy Partners

A motion was made by Board Member Rohn, seconded by Board Member Smith, to recommend to the City Council approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for the 18 Month Energy Action Jump Start with Xcel Energy Partners in Energy. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn and Board Member Hansen

EQC recommendation for carbon neutrality date

The EQC discussed the date to set as a goal for "net carbon neutral" deadlines for the carbon action plan as a whole as part of their consideration of the Northfield Energy Action Plan.

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Rohn, to recommend the following net carbon neutral goals:

- A minimum of at least 100% by at least 2050
- Recommend ambitious interim goals
- 100% by 2033 is unattainable and politically unviable
- It's not about the number - it's about having a focus for coordinating action

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn and Board Member Hansen

3. [19-919](#)

EQC to discuss a proposed update to the Dark Skies Ordinance.

Attachments: [1 - Dark Sky Resolution Draft](#)

Kim Smith stated she presented the Dark Skies Ordinance to the Planning Commission at their May meeting. They spoke in favor of the ordinance and would like to review it again after City Staff has had a chance to review it.

The following revisions were made to Item F - Lighting Controls:

- Line 2 to read as follows: Outdoor lighting and indoor lighting visible through a glass curtain wall
- Line 5 to read as follows: reduced by at least 50% or turned off unless motion activated.

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Hansen, to send the Dark Skies Ordinance as amended to City Staff for review. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn and Board Member Hansen

V. Reports and Discussion Items

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

A. Miller noted the draft Climate Action Plan will be sent to the EQC for review and comments.

Staff noted the following:

- All future EQC agenda packets will be sent through Notify Me.*
- Recording Secretary will be on vacation for the July meeting and will require another member to take minutes.*
- Noxious Weeds item will be discussed at the July meeting.*

M. Rohn informed the commission of a Workshop for Planning Resilient Cities that will be held on June 20th.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Rohn, to adjourn the June 2019 meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Board Member Miller, Board Member Smith, Board Member Rohn and Board Member Hansen