



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

7:00 PM

City Hall 2nd Floor Training Room

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Also present: Beth Kallestad - Program Coordinator; Lucy Menssen - Youth Board Member; Judy Becker - Meeting Associate; Matt Rohn - EQC Materials and Waste Work Group; Edmund Shannon - Xcel Energy Engineer, attending by GoToMeeting; Dan Rogers and Brandan Dilley - Nokomis Energy; Ashley Rezachek - Southern Minnesota News; Dorothea Hrossowyc - Northfield resident

Not Present: Nicholas Boehning, Youth Board Member

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and took Roll Call.

Present: 7 - Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner Mika Turner, Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Commissioner Daniel Jones, Commissioner Evan Pak, Commissioner Mateo Trujillo and Commissioner Michael Zenner

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Trujillo, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the June 16, 2021 meeting Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Pak, Commissioner Trujillo and Commissioner Zenner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-338](#) May 19, 2021 EQC Meeting Minutes.

Attachments: [5-19-21 Minutes](#)

This Minutes was approve.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were made during the Presentation agenda item.

V. PRESENTATION

2. [21-339](#) Presentation regarding Xcel Energy distribution system.

Attachments: [1 - Xcel Energy Presentation DER_June2021](#)

Legislation Text provided by Kallestad provided a thorough update on the Xcel Energy

distribution system in Northfield.

Edmund Shannon, Xcel Energy Engineer, attending by GoToMeeting, addressed information provided in his June 6, 2021 document about the Xcel Energy distribution system and its impact on Northfield residents, for discussion for the EQC. Commission members and the Northfield resident in attendance posed several questions related to the information provided in the document. Mr. Shannon indicated that, should the Northfield EQC want to stay involved with issues related to electricity and solar power, members should contact the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MNPU) Distributed Generation Working Group (DGWG), at information provided in this discussion paper.

Dorothea Hrossowyc expressed frustration with her experience in the process for establishing a small family solar installation, indicating there were delays, unexpected costs and many roadblocks by Xcel Energy.

For future questions of Xcel, Commission members can contact Matt Higgins at Xcel, as Mr. Shannon will be leaving Xcel this week.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

3. [21-340](#) Consider motion of support for Zero Waste Plan

Attachments: [1 - ZWP final 06032021](#)

A question was asked regarding how the plan relates to building construction and demolition. City Building Inspectors can only require what is within the building codes. Kallestad noted that is a separate issue from this plan and relates to building energy design and build requirements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trujillo, seconded by Commissioner Pak, to approve a Motion of Support for the Zero Waste Plan, dated June 3, 2021, requesting the City Council adopt this plan. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Pak, Commissioner Trujillo and Commissioner Zenner

4. [21-341](#) Climate Action Plan (CAP) Work Group Updates.

Commissioner Turner gave an update including funding possibilities and contact with the City of Rochester regarding water rebates.

5. [21-342](#) Review draft Carbon Reduction Fund policy.

Kallestad provided a revised Draft copy of City Council Policy Number 6.12, the Carbon Reduction Fund Policy. Three sources of revenue for the Carbon Reduction Fund were detailed. This Policy is scheduled to be presented at the July 20, 2021 City Council meeting. Discussion followed. Chair Anderson asked whether the Carbon Reduction Fund work group should continue its efforts. Kallestad indicated yes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve a Motion of Support for the City Council Carbon Reduction Fund Policy. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Pak, Commissioner Trujillo and Commissioner Zenner

VII. NEW BUSINESS

6. [21-343](#) Presentation Regarding SolSmart Application.

Attachments: [1 - SolSmart Informational Flyer](#)
[2 - Northfield SolSmart PZ1 - Zoning Review](#)
[3 - SolSmart Presentation EQC June2021](#)

Kallestad presented information regarding SolSmart and indicated the City of Northfield is working with Great Plains Institute (GPI) to apply for SolSmart designation. Communities pursuing SolSmart designation receive no-cost technical assistance from a team of national solar experts. Kallestad expects the application to be ready for submission to SolSmart by the end of the year.

VIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

IX. STAFF UPDATES

7. [21-355](#) Staff Update.

Kallestad provided an update regarding staff activities, some of which include the following:

- * A Board & Commission Appreciation Event will be held on June 23, 2021 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Sechler Park. EQC members are invited to attend.*
- * Events: The Love Our City event on May 22, 2021 included tree planting. Tabling for the Home Energy Squad and LED light bulb giveaway is planned at Riverwalk Market on August 21, 2021, at several Books & Stars events and potentially the Friday Farmers Markets. Contact Kallestad if interested in participating.*
- * MPCA grant for tree planting.*
- * Sustainable Building Policy*
- * City Strategic Plan*
- * Carbon-free electricity strategy; staff will give a presentation to the City Council at the August 17, 2021 meeting,*
- * Southeast Cities Community Engagement Cohort*
- * AmeriCorps/VISTA member position through Ecolibrium3*

Kallestad will not be in attendance at the July 21, 2021 meeting of the EQC. Justin Wagner will attend as staff.

Also, Kallestad proposed a tour of the Faribault Energy Park, from 4:00-5:30 p.m., prior to the August 18, 2021 EQC meeting. Contact her if interested in participating and for further information about transportation.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Petri, seconded by Commissioner Trujillo, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Pak, Commissioner Trujillo and Commissioner Zenner