

**MINUTES
CITY OF EDINA MINNESOTA
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
EDINA CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
Thursday March 13, 2014
7:05 PM**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** 7:05p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** Answering Roll Call was Bale, Glahn, Gubrud, Heer, Kostuch, Latham, Sokol, Thompson, Waddick, Zarrin and Chair Sierks.
- Absent: Rudnicki
- Late Arrival: Howard
- Staff Present: Ross Bintner and Rebecca Foster

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion made by Member Heer and seconded by Member Thompson to approve the Agenda after removing VI.B. and adding VIII.D. Home Heating Audit and Remediation. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes
- B. Attendance report and roster
- C. Workgroup list and minutes

Motion made by Member Zarrin and seconded by Member Thompson to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Howard arrived at 7:12p.m.

V. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Paul Rosland, Suburban Waste Services, has concerns about organized hauling. Mr. Rosland said he has invested money in the City and doesn't want to lose his customers and job.

VI. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion made by Member Gubrud and seconded by Member Latham for acclamation to Chair Sierks. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Member Sierks and seconded by Member Latham to elect John Heer as Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Member Latham and seconded by Member Thompson to elect Keith Kostuch as Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Community Solar (Ken Bradley). This item was tabled until April.

- C. Replacing City Disposable Water Bottle Sales. Member Zarrin would like the City to stop selling bottled water and install hydration stations at all of their facilities. Member Kostuch would like to add a friendly amendment that schools are still selling bottled water. Member Kostuch would like to know the exact revenue of bottled water. Staff will obtain revenue information and EEC will revisit this issue for further discussion. No action was taken at the March meeting.

Motion made by Member Latham and seconded by Member Gubrud to do further research and bring it back next month. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Joint Powers Agreement with St. Paul Port Authority (PACE). Member Sierks explained that St. Paul Port Authority will administer the PACE program instead of the EEC liaison. The City would need to enter a joint powers agreement with them. The only action required of the City would be to place a lien on the property, collect the money every six months and remit to SPPA. The St. Paul Port Authority does a lot of loans for energy efficiency and the Dept. of Commerce gave them some money to get this program set up. The St. Paul Port Authority's PACE financing is currently at 4 ½% and the most recent City's rate was at 7%. Mr. Bintner is wondering if EEP will stop and this will replace it. Mr. Bintner will review this draft with City legal counsel and bring it to the April EEC meeting for review.
- E. Joint Powers Agreement with the Dept. of Commerce (Guaranteed Energy Savings). Member Sierks reviewed the B3 Benchmarking. There are 12 of 20 City buildings that do not meet the 2007 energy code and have over \$350,000 identified in B3 as potential energy savings. There will be a new 2012 energy code released this summer that is 30% more energy efficient. The Guarantee Energy Savings will address building efficiency to reduce greenhouse gases and save money. The program has prequalified contractors that'll do the work. They will help with project development assistance, project implementation oversight and annual project performance evaluation. The key drivers of the Guarantee Energy Savings program is the organizational goals, facility issues and resources needed. The process takes about a year. First, the city needs to enter a joint powers agreement with MN Department of Commerce, then invite contractors and explain the scope of work, create an RFP, choose a contractor, implement a project and measure it.

Motion made by Member Sierks and seconded by Member Latham to approve sending an Advisory Communication to Council to enter an energy savings contract using the Guarantee Energy Savings Program.

Mr. Bintner gave an update from Tim Barnes the Facility Manager. Mr. Barnes has reservation about the Guarantee Energy Savings Program, he has qualified staff to manage an internal program that meets the same goal, and he is working on a plan to present to the EEC in June, and asks the EEC not to lock in until they see the alternative plan from staff. The City received money from hail damage and staff is considering proposing to use some of it to fix major problems and use the remaining money to start seeding energy efficiency for the buildings.

Member Zarrin suggested creating a subcommittee to review this and make a motion next month. Member Kostuch suggested that staff may be able to do some items internally and the bigger items contracted.

Motion made by Member Sierks and seconded by Member Latham to advise Council that the Guarantee Energy Savings Program is a viable option to address the work plan priority on energy efficient buildings.

Member Sierks withdraws his motion.

Motion made by Member Kostuch and seconded by Member Latham to create a subcommittee to work with City staff to understand guarantee energy savings and Building Manager Tim Barnes' alternatives and issues and report back in May. Motion carried unanimously.

The subcommittee will be Members Kostuch, Sierks, Glahn and city staff.

- F. Tree Preservation Ordinance support for Planning Commission. Member Sierks said Mike Platterer, Planning Commission, would like support from the EEC. Member Latham reminded the Commission that they already approved the Urban Forest Task Force (UFTF) Report and it was approved by the Council. Sierks asked Latham to summarize the UFTF report in an email which Member Latham requested to be sent to the Planning Commission as follows.

The EEC's Urban Forest Task Force had substantially different findings than did the Planning Commission's Residential Task Force with respect to the need and scope of a tree preservation ordinance, as well as with respect to the best use of the City Forester's time. The UFTF found as follows:

"The UFTF found that generally, there was little wonton removal of trees on public or private property within Edina other than in isolated instances. It is very costly to remove a mature tree and consequently trees are generally only removed in cases of disease or of relandscaping; such tree removals are not in need of regulation. When trees are removed in such circumstances they are generally replaced with new trees within a few years... Although teardowns occur throughout Edina, most complaints stem from those teardowns on lots less than 75 feet wide. As such the UFTF believed that it would not be prudent to design an ordinance applying to the entire city to address the localized problem of small lot teardowns. Problems unique to small lot teardowns should be addressed by the Planning Commission's Residential Task Force (RTF) and any enforcement accomplished by the proposed city teardown overseer.

To more effectively control noxious weeds and address other environmental issues in the park system, the UFTF recommends hiring a full-time Natural Resource Manager, as opposed to a part-time Forester. More knowledge of ecology is required today given the arrival of many invasive plant, insect and aquatic species. A passive forestry program with a philosophy of 'Natural Forest Succession' and one primarily focused on tree diseases such as oak wilt and Dutch Elm Disease, is no longer adequate... With a full-time Natural Resource Manager the following can be accomplished: more grants can be applied for, more parks can be certified as Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries, more trees can be planted, more buckthorn and other noxious weeds can be controlled, more habitat can be restored, and more educational programs can be offered to residents. In addition, full-time positions attract candidates with more extensive applicable natural resource education and more applicable experience as opposed to part-time positions."

- G. Working Groups and Bylaws Review. Mr. Bintner gave an update on the EEC Bylaws saying that the Commission can have Working Groups or Subcommittees, but not a Task Force. A Working Group needs to have a public notice for members to join and a Subcommittee can only have five or less Commissioners. Each Working Group and Subcommittee needs to create a mission.

Motion made by Member Sierks and seconded by Member Gubrud to terminate the Air Quality Working Group. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Member Latham and seconded by Member Sierks to nominate Lou Ann Waddick as Chair of the Water Quality Working Group. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Member Latham and seconded by Member Gubrud to terminate the Urban Forest Task Force. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Sierks proposed terminating the Energy Working Group and creating a Building Performance Subcommittee and a Community Solar Working Group.

Motion made by Member Glahn and seconded by Member Sierks to terminate the Energy Working Group. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Heer asked the Education and Outreach Working Group to create a mission statement.

The Home Energy Squad Task Force will be renamed as a Subcommittee. Member Gubrud gave an update that 26 visits have been completed out of the 42 total.

Motion made by Member Kostuch and seconded by Member Zarrin to terminate the Purchasing Subcommittee. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Heer asked the Recycling & Solid Waste Working Group to create a mission statement.

Motion made by Member Sierks and seconded by Member Glahn to terminate the Solar & Wind Ordinance Task Force. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Member Kostuch and seconded by Member Zarrin to terminate the Bylaws Working Group. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Member Sierks and seconded by Member Glahn to terminate the Carbon Disclosure Project Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Heer asked the Edina Business Recycling Working Group and Local Food Working Group to create a mission statement. The Sustainability TF will be renamed to City Environmental Considerations Subcommittee.

Motion made by Member Sierks and seconded by Member Thompson to create a Student Initiatives Subcommittee. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Education & Outreach Working Group

1. April/May event & movie night. Member Howard gave an update on the "More Than Honey" movie on March 21st in the Council Chambers. "Bag It" will be the movie in May. Member Thompson gave an update on "What will turn you on" will be on Monday, April 28th at Southview Middle School. Member Thompson gave an update on the "Storm Water Solutions Rain Gardens and you" at Weber Park on March 16th.
2. Earth Day Proclamation. Member Gubrud will update the resolution from last year.

Motion made by Member Gubrud and seconded by Member Latham to create an Earth Day Proclamation and send it to Council for the April 1st meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE & PETITIONS

- A. Open Meeting Law email. Mr. Bintner reminded Commissioners that they can't email a majority due to the Open Meeting Law standards.

VIII. CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Sokol gave an update that the Project Earth grant on Pilot Solar Power Project was denied and that they are seeking further funding.

Member Latham excused herself from the meeting at 9:19p.m.

- A. Council Advisory on GHG emissions. Member Sierks asked the Commissioners to review the Advisory Communication and discuss it at the April or May meeting.
- B. Nominations for Recognition Event. Member Sierks asked for nominations on the Mayor's Award and EEC Volunteer Award for the City's Volunteer Recognition Event.

Motion made by Member Gubrud and seconded by Member Sierks to approve the nomination of Julie Risser for her Service on the Planning and Energy & Environment Commissions for the EEC Volunteer Award. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Sierks asked if the Commissioner wants to continue using the intern. Member Sierks gave an update on the Pentagon Park Development sustainability.

Member Kostuch gave an update on the City Environmental Considerations Subcommittee. The Subcommittee meets with Eric Roggeman, Assistant Finance Director, about revising the Capital Improvement Projects form to add sustainability. Mr. Roggeman said that not every CIP goes through the five year CIP, because some projects go directly through City Council.

- C. Update EEC Webpage with more Business/Residential Recycling. Member Zarrin gave an update on 50th & France winning an award for business recycling. Member Zarrin said promotion on business recycling is needed. The EEC webpage needs to be updated. Mr. Bintner asked Commissioners to give updates to him.

Members Bale, Sokol and Zarrin excused themselves from the meeting at 9:25p.m.

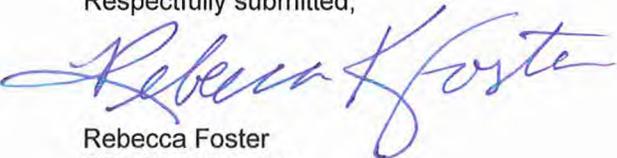
IX. STAFF COMMENTS

- A. Lakes & Ponds. This topic was tabled.
- B. Water Services Freezing. Mrs. Foster gave an update on 55 residential water services freezing which have been mainly widespread. Most of the freezing's occurred during the sub below zero weather, but it'll get worse with the melting due to the frost being pushed further down. The outages have only been for a few days with only two homeowners having to leave their homes. The last time the City has seen this was in the winter of 1977-78. The City has been doing press releases asking residents to monitor their incoming water temps and contact the City if it goes below 35 degrees. Also, you can leave your water running at the width of a pencil on a lower level faucet to prevent the line from freezing.

There being no further business on the Commission Agenda, Chair Heer declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Motion made by Member Thompson and seconded by Member Gubrud to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Foster
GIS Administrator