

ADVISORY COMMUNICATION



To: City Council

From: Energy and Environment Commission

Date: March 17, 2015

Subject: Advisory Communication – Energy and Environment Commission,
Adding an environmental principle to the Grandview Plan Guiding Principles

Attachments None

Action Requested:

The EEC requests that Council add an explicit environmental principle to the Grandview planning and development effort.

Situation:

The EEC was invited by Mr. Neuendorf, the City Economic Development manager, to take an active role in the Grandview development process. Several EEC members attended the Dec. 4, 2014 Exploration Session hosted by the City and Frauenshuh.

Background

In Chapter 10 of the 2008 Comprehensive plan the City of Edina committed itself to a “leadership role” in achieving aggressive reductions in Green House Gas emissions. Unfortunately, historically there had been little if any consideration of the environmental impacts of the City’s facility and fleet decisions. Those capital decisions determine the City’s environmental footprint and impact for years and decades to come.

Assessment:

Any development in the Grandview project will have an environmental footprint that will last for decades. Any City facility in this development will impact the City’s ability to meet its Chapter 10 environmental commitments in its own facilities. At this time, it does not appear that the “Seven Guiding Principles” for the Grandview development take this into account or fulfill the “leadership role” of the City.

If Council wishes, the EEC can play an observer or advisory role in the Grandview development process in 2015.



Recommendation

The EEC recommends that Council add an 8th Guiding Principle to the Grandview development planning process. This new principle should incorporate the Chapter 10 commitments from the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. This should be an explicit decision parameter in all options presented to Council and be explicitly taken into account in the final decisions by Council.

The EEC offers the following principles/actions as examples of environmental actions for the Grandview site. This list is a starting point as many other actions are possible and should be analyzed and considered.

- Strive for minimal disposal of construction waste
- Achieve Greenhouse Gas Emission reductions of 80% from 2005 Edina public building levels by maximizing use of renewable energy technologies (solar, solar thermal, distributed energy, etc)
- Achieve carbon neutral impact via offsets and renewable energy credits for all emissions
- Construct all buildings to meet SB 2030 energy standards
- Capture and reuse all storm water from the site; no off-site discharge
- Include educational spaces for residents to learn and practice sustainable environmental practices
- Provide for composting and recycling in all areas of the development with a goal of zero on-going waste