

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Energy and Environment Commission
Edina City Hall Community Room
Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 7:00 P.M.**

Members In Attendance and Roll Call:

Raymond O'Connell, Bill Sierks, Julie Risser, Dianne Plunkett Latham, Hailey Lee, Paul Thompson,

Absent: Surya Iyer, M. Germana Paterlini

Staff Present:

Heather Worthington

Public: N/A

1. Welcome & Roll Call

2. Discussion and Approval of Agenda.

Commissioner Plunkett Latham suggested a re-ordering of the agenda so that the Recycling RFP could be discussed first. She also suggested a re-ordering of the Commission Business portion of the agenda in the following order:

- Bike trails and lanes
- Powershift
- Facilitation workshop
- City code compatibility with sustainability
- Staff report

3. The February minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Recycling RFP

Solvei Wilmot, staff liaison to the Solid Waste and Recycling Working Group presented the RSWWG's recommendation on the RFP. Allied Waste was recommended as the hauler who met the most criteria set by the City Council. Motion by Thompson, second Sierks, to recommend Allied Waste as the City's recycling hauler, and sign a contract with Allied Waste. Unanimous approval.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Work Group Updates

Education and Outreach:

Commissioner Risser reported on an upcoming segment for In Edina on the Commission's work. She also reported on the Sustainability Conference in St. Paul next week, and that she would like input from Commissioners on what she should discuss at the conference. She reported on the Edina Garden Club Event, April 27th, an upcoming column in the Sun Current, and the possibility of sending a representative to the Local Climate Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. May 18-20. Commissioner Thompson asked if the Commission wanted to participate in the July 4th parade, and if so, the Commission will need to register. Project Earth is interested in participating, so perhaps the two groups could do it together. Motion by O'Connell, second Risser, to participate in the July 4th Parade. Unanimous approval.

Climate Change Working Group

No report

Water Quality Working Group

One person has applied to be a part of the WG, Ryan Wilson. Motion by O'Connell to approve appointment, seconded by Risser. Unanimous approval. Latham, Risser, Lee, and Wilson will serve on Working Group.

6. Commission Business

Bike trails and lanes:

Commissioner Latham reported that Chair Iyer asked for a W. 70th and 9 Mile Creek Regional Trail resolution. Commissioner O'Connell expressed his desire to recommend trails in conjunction with the 9 Mile project, including the replacement bridges, and the EEC's support for the Creek alignment. Worthington will research other Commission recommendations on alignment, and report back in April.

Powershift Conference:

Commissioner Lee attended the Powershift Conference in Washington D.C. Every state, Canadian province and twelve countries were represented. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, addressed the group, and spoke on legislation regarding environmental issues. Van Jones, an organizer of the event spoke on sustainability in the market, solar panels, and other energy efficient technology. There were 250 representatives from Minnesota. Lee attended workshop on journalism to promote environmental activism, and helped to lobby Congress to pass climate protection legislation encouraging America to participate in the new Energy Treaty.

Facilitation workshop:

The Commission discussed their concerns with the first half of the facilitated work session, and asked Worthington to communicate with Richard and Irina Fursman in preparation for their next meeting. They agreed that a

frequent “check-in” on the strategic plan would be necessary on an ongoing basis. Worthington will report back on the structure and goals of the next session prior to the April meeting.

City code compatibility with sustainability:

Worthington reported that the City followed the State Building Code, and that the Code was currently under review. The Commission agreed to defer this discussion to a future meeting.

Staff Report:

Worthington reported that staff had been working with McKinstry, a local consulting firm that specializes in energy efficiency studies. In addition, she has recently become aware of some Xcel programs that may save the City money on energy bills, and will be doing further investigation.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Worthington, Secretary