

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Energy and Environment Commission
Edina City Hall Community Room
Thursday, March 10, 2011, 7 P.M.**

Members In Attendance and Roll Call: Dianne Plunkett Latham, Sarah Zarrin, Bill Sierks, Paul Thompson, Susan Tucker, Bob Gubrud, M. Germana Paterlini, Surya Iyer, Karwehn Kata, Alma Pronove, Julie Risser

Absent: Keith Kostuch

Staff Present: Jane Timm, Jesse Struve

1. Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Latham.

2. Approval of Agenda and Topic Time Allocation

The agenda was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of February 10, Minutes

The February 10, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved with minor changes.

4. Community Comment

Chair Latham welcomed resident Laura Eaton, 7452 Shannon Dr, Edina MN 55439.

5. Chair Report

Chair Latham explained to the commission that the May intern was Kyle Wagener and he would work with Commissioner Zarrin on a recycling project. He will give a report at the June 2011 EEC meeting.

The commission discussed working group members.

Commissioner Gubrud made a motion to add Laura Eaton to the Education and Outreach Working Group. Commissioner Thompson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sierks made a motion to add William Glahn to the Energy Working Group. Commissioner Tucker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion about filming commission meetings at the request of City Manager, Scott Neal. The consensus of the commission was: filming would promote professionalism, frankness, and the opportunity to educate viewers about EEC. They also thought that filming one to two meetings a year would give the EEC an opportunity to strategically plan the meetings and give residents the most information. Chair Latham will answer the questions presented by City Manager Neal and forward the answers to him.

Chair Latham asked the commissioners if there were any comments about the newly drafted Board and Commission ordinance included in the packet. There were no comments.

Chair Latham explained the nomination process for the Volunteer Recognition Reception. There was a discussion about exceptional volunteers and who would nominate the volunteers.

Commissioner Gubrud made a motion to nominate four volunteers for the Volunteer Recognition Reception - Kevin Clay, Eric Burfeind, Bruce Coles, and Mike Seaman. Commissioner Sierks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A *Sun Current* article asking for volunteers for the working groups was approved. Chair Latham will update and forward to the City Communications Department.

There was a discussion about the EEC's portion of the website. The commission went over the suggested changes reflected in the packet. The working group chairs will take the proposed changes to the working groups and bring feedback to the April EEC meeting.

6. Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)

Commissioner Paterlini gave an update on the CDP. Commissioner Paterlini recommended that the City of Edina continue with the project.

7. GreenStep Cities Report

Chair Latham will log on to www.MnGreenStep.org and update City of Edina's portion of the website. She indicated this would be an ongoing project and after the initial information is entered other commission members would need to update also.

8. Solar Panel For City Hall

Commissioner Sierks gave an update on adoption by City Council authorizing the execution of the Renewable Energy Grant March 15, 2011. Commissioners Sierks and Iyer will meet with City Manager Neal regarding the McKinstry Report. The McKinstry Report will be in the EEC's April packet.

9. Turf Management Task Force

No Report.

10. Energy Working Group Report

Commissioner Iyer gave an update on the last working group meeting and attached minutes.

11. Water Quality Working Group Report

Commissioner Tucker gave an update on the completed Blue Star Assessment. The requirement is 60% of the points, but Edina only has 53% of the required points. They will go over all the paperwork again and check with Nine Mile Creek Watershed for their input. When they have the 60% it will be in the EEC's monthly packet.

12. Recycling and Solid Waste Working Group (RSW)

Chair Latham gave an update of the Hennepin County Environmental Services 90 minute presentation. Hennepin County has an initiative to reduce waste and increase recycling county wide.

RSW made a recommendation regarding House File 517 and 519 and would like the recommendation adopted by the EEC and then forwarded to the City Council for their approval.

Commissioner Sierks made a motion to present the recommendation approved by RSW regarding House File 517 and 519 to the Edina City Council. They would contact City of Edina's House Representatives requiring the use of compostable yard waste bags. Commissioner Iyer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Residential Energy Project

Commissioner Sierks gave a summary of the article in the March 10, 2011 *Edina Sun Current* Newspaper regarding the Residential Energy Project.

There was a discussion about an Eco Yard and Garden Tour for the summer of 2011. Chair Latham gave the commission an example of how this could be accomplished.

14. Education and Outreach Working Group

Commissioner Thompson gave an update about receiving the Earth Hour Proclamation at the City Council meeting.

Commissioner Thompson explained to the commission that the Edina School District would not support the Home Energy Squad (HES) grant program at schools stating a conflict of interest. There was a suggestion to check with Edina's private schools.

Earth Day is April 22, 2011, and the working group is looking for projects. Any suggestions are welcome. The high school is doing a large project on refillable water bottles.

Commissioner Thompson passed out a flyer about the Sustainable Workshop on April 8 and 9, 2011.

Commissioner Thompson gave an update on the May 7 and 8, 2011 Living Green Expo, a statewide event.

There was a short discussion on a Facebook Page for the Energy and Environment Commission. This was tabled, but Commissioner Tucker would contact Jennifer Bennerotte for information.

Commissioner Gubrud and the working group would like to consider doing an adult education class later in the year of 2011. This was tabled.

15. Sage Steps Website

There was a discussion about the website. Commissioner Gubrud will investigate and report back to the commission in April.

16. Air Quality Working Group

Commissioner Risser is working to get a meeting schedule for the working group.

17. Adjournment

Commissioner Gubrud made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Iyer seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. April 14, 2011 at Edina City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. Timm, Deputy City Clerk