

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Energy and Environment Commission
Edina City Hall Community Room
Thursday, April 14, 2011, 7 P.M.**

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

Absent: Susan Tucker

Staff Present: Jane Timm, Jesse Struve, Scott Neal

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 with changes in the order of the items.

3. Approval of March 10, Minutes

The March 10, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Community Comment

None.

5. Staff Report

Staff Liaison, Jesse Struve made a request to commissioners that all requests for staff go through the EEC chairperson and the EEC chairperson would consult with him to evaluate the request. He requested a one week turnaround time for any request.

6. GreenStep Cities Benchmark

Chair Latham welcomed Mayor Hovland and Council Member Bennett to the meeting.

Jesse Struve gave a short demonstration on the State of Minnesota B3 database. He entered the secure website and noted it was best to keep the database current by updating monthly. One concern was how much staff time would be necessary to keep the database current. It was also noted that the database through the State of Minnesota was free.

Commissioner Sierks made a motion to recommend Katie Jones to work with Jesse Struve to input the B3 Benchmark data. Commissioner Iyer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The next demonstration was from Hara Software (an energy management service) by way of Webinar and conference call and was presented by Geoff Mohr. This was a shortened version of the demonstration done at the October 2010 EEC meeting.

Greg Ackerson of McKinstry Company presented information about their mission and showed the commission work that they have done for both Eden Prairie and a pilot program for Brooklyn Park.

Rick Carter of LHB Corporation and Project Manager for the State of Minnesota Urban Land Institute's (ULI) Pilot within a Pilot Program explained that maintaining an up-to-date B3 database is required to qualify for certain State of Minnesota grants. He gave a presentation regarding the features of the program.

Commissioner Gubrud made a motion that EEC recommend to Edina City Council that the City of Edina hire the Urban Land Institute (ULI) at \$5000 to apply their Regional Indicator's Project tool (also known as Pilot within a Pilot benchmark) to supply a benchmark for 2009 and 2010 as well as train Edina City Staff such that staff can institutionalize the tool and continue benchmarking from 2011 forward. The sectors included are municipal, residential and commercial for electricity,

gas, drinking water, waste water, municipal solid waste, recycling, vehicle miles traveled and carbon dioxide. Commissioner Sierks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Chair Report

Chair Latham announced that due to time constraints most items would be tabled to the May 2011 meeting. She reminded the commissioners of the Volunteer Recognition Reception Thursday, April 28, 2011, and asked for a motion for the commissioners to pay out of the EEC budget the required \$20 fee for each of the four honored volunteers as well as the three commissioner introducing the honored volunteers at the reception.

Commissioner Gubrud made a motion to pay \$140 from the EEC budget for the volunteer recognition participants. Commissioner Sierks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Energy Working Group

Chair Latham told the commission there was a request from the Planning Commission's March 23, 2011, meeting for two members of the EEC to join the Solar & Wind Ordinance Amendment Task Force. Chair Latham nominated Commissioners Sierks and Iyer to the Solar & Wind Ordinance Amendment Task Force. Commissioners Sierks and Iyer accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Risser made a motion to confirm Chair Latham's nomination of Commissioners Iyer and Sierks to join the Solar & Wind Ordinance Amendment Task Force. Commissioner Gubrud seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Solar Panel For City Hall/Fire Station

Jesse Struve is meeting with City Manager, Scott Neal to discuss the Solar Panel for City Hall or the Fire Station #1. Jesse Struve will contact Chair Latham after the meeting.

10. Eco Yard and GardenTour

Chair Latham asked the commission for input on the press release regarding the tour. Commissioner Risser suggested having energy efficient lawn mowers on the tour. Chair Latham will add the lawn mower demonstrations to the press release.

11. Education and Outreach Working Group

Commissioner Thompson gave an update on Earth Day (April 22) noting that Edina High School would be having an Earth Jam from 7pm to 11 pm at The Depot.

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Iyer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gubrud seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. May 12, 2011 at Edina City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. Timm, Deputy City Clerk