

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT CITY HALL
July 21, 2011
7:06 P.M.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Latham called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** Answering roll call were Members Gubrud, Kata, Kostuch, Paterlini, Risser, Sierks, Tucker, Zarrin, and Chair Latham.
Absent: Members Iyer, Pronove and Thompson
Staff Present: Jesse Struve and Rebecca Foster
- III. **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA** Agenda was approved as written.
- IV. **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA** Agenda was approved as written.
- V. **COMMUNITY COMMENT** No one appeared for comment other than as noted below.
- VI. **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Working Group Members. **Motion made by Member Risser and seconded by Member Paterlini to approve David VanDongen to the Air Quality Working Group. Water Quality Working Group Chair Susan Tucker requested that Mary Jo Straub be deleted from the Water Quality Working Group because Ms Straub indicated that she no longer has the time to participate. Commission Chair Latham thanked Ms Straub for her past contributions. Motion made by Member Gubrud and seconded by Member Sierks to approve Phil Hirschey to the Energy Working Group. Motion made by Member Gubrud and seconded by Member Sierks to approve Carlin Struckman to the Education Outreach Working Group. Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Energy WG
 - 1. Solar panel project. Member Sierks said that the solar grant project fulfills one of the GreenStep Cities requirements and educates the community about solar energy and energy efficiency.

Public Comment.

- Bill Glahn, 6634 Normandale Rd, approves the energy efficiency portion, but not the solar project.
- John Spanhake, 5701 McGuire Rd, not in favor of the solar project and would rather focus on the energy efficiency project.
- John Dolphin, 5809 Eastview Dr, believes solar thermal has a better payback.
- Greg Nelson, 6120 Hansen Rd, not in favor of the solar project because he believed the bid too high.
- Tim Rudnicki, 4224 Lynn Ave, approves the solar project.
- Bill Simmons, 5616 Woodcrest Dr, approves the solar project.

Chair Latham clarified that the bundling of the energy efficiency projects on the other municipal buildings with the solar grant project was recommended by McKinstry to achieve a shorter payback period. Commission members generally support an educational solar project pursuant to the AARA grant, but cannot support such a project when bundled together with other municipal building energy efficiency projects, which commissioners have not had an opportunity to study. Commissioners also had concerns about the 10K Solar bid price, which they believed was high. Commissioners furthermore had concerns about the RFP process used for the solar grant project, which was substantially different from the process used in the Recycling RFP. Staff

indicated at the July 6 Q & A with McKinstry that this was necessitated by the short time line required by the AARA grant deadline.

Motion made by Member Sierks and seconded by Member Kostuch to approve McKinstry package of the grant solar panels for the City Hall roof and associated energy efficiency package for other city buildings as listed in the McKinstry hand out. 1 Aye, 7 Nays with the Chair not voting. Motion failed.

2. Solar/wind ordinance amendments Task Force. The topic was tabled.
3. PACE commercial energy district.

Public Comment

Brad Hanson, 5908 Chapel Dr., Edina, recommended a third party financing model for commercial properties.

Motion made by Member Gubrud and seconded by Member Zarrin to accept Energy Working Group Resolution with the addition of the inclusion of residential property. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Water Quality WG

1. Coal Tar ordinance. There was a discussion about edits that need to be made to the ordinance and how the city will enforce the new ordinance.

Motion made by Member Gubrud and seconded by Member Paterlini to have Susan move forward with making the recommendations that have been mentioned and researching the other cities that have done this and report back next month. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Blue Star Municipal Stormwater Mgmt Assessment. Jesse Struve will generate a word document of the Blue Star Municipal Stormwater Management Assessment to have Chair Latham provide edits instead of setting up Read Only user name and password to the website. The Assessment will be in the August EEC meeting packet for public review.

D. Air Quality WG

1. Drive Through Ordinance Amendments. Members would like to restore the pre 2009 status and to make drive through facility standards more in line with Air Quality objectives.
2. Clean Air Act. Dawn Erlandson, President, Aurora Strategic Advisors requested that Edina host a panel event on the public health benefits of the Clean Air Act in Edina on August 9th. Mayor Hovland and Will Steger will participate. Jesse Struve will reserve a meeting room at the Public Works building.

Motion made by Member Risser and seconded by Member Zarrin to approve EEC to be a cosponsor for the Workshop organized by Dawn Erlandson. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Recycling & Solid Waste WG

1. Refuse Report. There were no edits to the proposed report. The report will be sent to Edina's haulers for comment.

Motion made by Member Gubrud and seconded by Member Zarrin to approve the refuse report. Motion carried unanimously.

2. City park recycling bins. The past year's recycling bin study at Pamela Park and Louis Park was successful as determined by Commissioners Latham and Zarrin, who have been monitoring the Dow recycling bins in these parks. The success of the program is due in large part to the Edina school's education program for their students on how to recycle. The Recycling and Solid Waste Working Group's recommendations for recycling bins in City parks was reviewed. This proposal would ultimately lead to recycling bins being placed in every City park.

Motion made by Member Zarrin and seconded by Member Tucker to accept the Recycling and Solid Waste Working Group's recycling bin proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

3. City survey – Organized Hauling. Members reviewed the survey results, which showed that 37% of residents favored or strongly favored organized refuse hauling. 43% favored or strongly favored Choice. However, 15% indicated that they chose Choice because they (erroneously) believed that the cost was less. A 2009 MPCA study showed that in cities with organized hauling, residents pay substantially less than residents in cities with Choice. If the 15% is deducted from those choosing Choice and added to those supporting organized hauling, then 52% would favor organized hauling and 28% Choice. Education needs to be done to explain how organized hauling actually is cheaper.

- F. Eco Yard & Garden tour. Chair Latham is requesting a few more volunteers as site monitors.
- G. Turf Management Task Force. The Commission reviewed the Task Force's report. Member Paterlini discussed how the revised plan would be a no spray or use organic control policy in designated areas by city Park Department. A sign will be designed to be installed in the above designated areas. Vince Cockriel indicated to the Task Force that his budget could accommodate such signage. This proposal will be sent to the Park Board and Community Health Commission for approval.

Motion made by Member Tucker and seconded by Member Gubrud to approve the Turf Management Task Force report. Motion carried unanimously.

- H. Education Outreach WG
 1. 4th of July Parade. Member Gubrud thanked Members Tucker, Risser, Iyer, Thompson, John Howard and Brad Hanson for helping at the parade.
 2. Public Works native plant landscaping. EEC supports the sustainable landscaping.
 3. Night to Unite, August 2nd, the Home Energy Squad will visit neighborhoods.
- I. City Website. No Report.
- J. EEC Website. No Report.
- K. GreenStep Cities. Seven of sixteen Steps have been completed and Edina was awarded the level 1 certification.
- L. City Council Work Session. Tuesday, September 20th at 5:00 P.M.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE & PETITIONS

VIII. CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Vice Chair Election. No one has yet volunteered to be Chair for 2012, instead, four members volunteered to each serve for one quarter. Chair Latham expressed the hope that someone would yet step forward to chair the commission prior to the Feb. 2012 elections.

- B. June Issue of *Edina Magazine*. Chair Latham gave an update on articles within the magazine, which was dedicated to environmental issues. Chair Latham also passed around the print publicity that the Eco tour has generated to date.

IX. STAFF COMMENTS

- A. Jesse Struve
 - 1. EEC budget. Chair Latham told the members that the total remaining EEC budget is \$6,000.00, which excludes staff salary for the duration of the year. Member Risser suggested purchasing the *No Idling Signs* and Member Zarrin suggested Recycling Bins for the City parks. Paul Thompson had previously suggested hosting a speaker.

 - 2. ULI benchmark progress report. Will present report at September 20th Council Work Session.

 - 3. EEC's compostable bag resolution. Since the legislation had not been endorsed by both houses of the legislature, EEC's resolution can be withdrawn.

 - 4. Green Corps Intern. It is uncertain whether funding will be available for an intern.

There being no further business on the Commission Agenda, Chair Latham declared the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Motion made by Member Paterlini and seconded by Member Tucker to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Foster
GIS Administrator