

## CEAC Meeting Minutes – January 2, 2013

**Attendance:** Ross Abbey, Michelle Stockness, Michelle Schroeder, Darrell Gerber, Marty Broan, Sarah Sponheim, Annette Rondano, Brian Ross, Pat Mulloy, Shalini Gupta, Lisa Daniels, Alexis Troschinetz, Meleah Houseknecht, Kevin Bengtson, Roxxanne O'Brien, Tony Hainault

**Others in Attendance:** Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback, Anders Imboden

**Absences:** Jamison Tessneer, Diane Daun

The regular CEAC meeting was preceded by a special orientation session for new CEAC members. The regular CEAC meeting was opened at 3:12 by Ross Abbey.

### Meeting Minutes and Agenda

The December meeting's minutes were unanimously accepted after minor corrections. Darrell Gerber suggested that Item 4 of the agenda include discussion of the schedule, rather than Item 9. The group accepted the agenda unanimously.

### Introductions (Prest)

Members introduced themselves. Attachment 2 provides background info on each member.

### Announcements

Gayle Prest will track the City Council's progress on updating CEAC's name. Gayle also explained some of the results of the City's Regulatory Services department reorganization – some staff that have come to CEAC before are now working in the Department of Health and Family Support.

Brendon Slotterback gave an update on the Climate Action Plan. The Environmental Justice working group will be meeting one more time in late January. They will then provide recommendations to the project steering committee, which will meet in February. The City Council's review of the plan will take place this winter or spring, but no dates are certain yet. Check the project website ([www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate)) for more information.

Ross is willing to stand down as chair of CEAC this year. Elections will be held in February.

Hennepin County has a Fix-It Clinic at 3900 Bryant Park, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Bring things that needs repair.

Clean Energy Resource Teams is having a conference in St. Cloud February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The conference will focus on community-oriented projects. The conference happens once every two years.

The Building Disclosure Ordinance will be coming to public hearing January 28<sup>th</sup>

Darrell leads a citizen group to Washington to advocate for the Great Lakes to legislators through Clean Water Action every year. There may be funding available to help people travel this year. The event will happen on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Darrell can provide more information to those who are interested.

Michelle Schroeder is recruiting more cities to be part of MN Green Step Cities program. If anyone has connections or projects to highlight, she would like to include those in a presentation she will give to other communities.

### CEAC Orientation (Prest)

Gayle presented information on CEAC to new members at a pre-meeting. Gayle presented additional items to the full CEAC:

- Group Norms – a document developed by CEAC to guide members
- Reviewed modified form of Robert's rules

- Subcommittees are based on the interest of the group
- Thoughts on 2013 –
  - Climate Action Plan,
  - Building Disclosure,
  - Sustainability Report developed in March & April
  - Subcommittee work
    - Ross Abbey added that it is often subcommittees that bring items forward to the full CEAC for action.
    - Subcommittees usually meet outside the regular CEAC meeting, often immediately before or after.
  - Schedule: at the next meeting, CEAC will vote on the year's schedule (this is part of the bylaws)
  - Contact information (the meeting materials email included all members' email addresses)
  - Shalini Gupta mentioned a project CEED is working on with the University of Minnesota to map the Twin Cities with an environmental justice focus; this could be an agenda item in the future (possibly April or May).

### **Approval of 2012 CEAC Highlights (Abbey)**

Subcommittee Chairs provided some background information on the items that they worked on in 2011, expanding on the bulleted items in the Highlights document and discussing the work that went into these accomplishments.

#### **Action:**

Ross Abbey moved to adopt the Highlights document as written (see attachment). Pat Mulloy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Utility Franchise Subcommittee Outcomes (Mulloy)**

Pat Mulloy provided background on the utility franchise agreements, explaining that the City has some leverage over utility providers through its franchise agreements with Xcel Energy and Centerpoint Energy.

Brian Ross explained more of the history of CEAC's input into the franchise negotiation preparations, including the Outcomes document. The edits in red are from Robin Garwood. Originally, the document was supposed to address only things that could be accomplished through the franchise agreement as allowed by current law. Some of the additions have been things that cannot be accomplished under current statutes, but those items are noted.

Some discussion took place around CEAC's role in the larger franchise negotiation process, both currently and in the future. This document does not preclude future CEAC action. The franchise subcommittee will continue to meet.

Roxanne O'Brien asked if the document is intended to be used for negotiating with Xcel Energy specifically. Pat Mulloy replied that this was indeed the case, adding that there are other groups suggesting alternative approaches. Minneapolis Energy Options was specifically cited as an example. Brian Ross noted that state law does not allow Minneapolis to go through a bidding process. Roxanne specifically mentioned concerns about environmental racism and environmental justice, adding that items around these issues could be added to the Outcomes document.

It was suggested that the group could add a sentence about the Outcomes document being a working document that will evolve (for example, to address environmental justice issues). Shalini Gupta suggested more specifically pointing out that new ideas will be coming regarding environmental and racial justice very soon, so new members can apply their expertise and energy to the issue. The franchise subcommittee will likely meet in the next month; this topic could be included at that meeting.

#### **Action:**

Brian Ross moved to adopt the Outcomes document as CEAC's recommendation to Council Member Glidden for use in the City's franchise negotiation process. Darrell Gerber seconded.

After considerable discussion, members were asked to vote on two amendments to the original Outcomes document. Regrettably, formal motions and seconds were not recorded.

*Amendment #1*

A vote was held on amending the document as follows:

Remove "Principles for the new electric utility franchise agreement" from the document title, replacing it with "Possible outcomes for the new electric utility franchised agreement."

Add this list item: "20. **Racial and environmental justice.** The franchise agreement should promote racial and environmental justice."

Change the remaining list item numbers accordingly.

The motion passed. *Opposed: Shalini Gupta. Abstained: Kevin Bengtson.*

*Amendment #2*

A vote was held on amending the document as follows:

Add this sentence in the first paragraph: "This is considered a working document and we anticipate recommending revisions as planning and negotiations progress, such as in the area of outcomes related to racial and environmental equity."

The motion passed. *Opposed: Alexis Troshinetz, Annette Rondano. Abstained: Kevin Bengtson.*

*Amended Outcomes Document*

A vote was held on the motion that CEAC adopt the complete document, as amended.

The motion passed. *Opposed: Annette Rondano. Abstained: Kevin Bengtson.*

**Approval of Building Disclosure Policy Comments (Schroeder)**

Information on the Building Disclosure Policy is available on the City's website ([www.minneapolismn.gov/energyfranchise](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/energyfranchise)).

Michelle Schroeder provided some background information on the proposed letter to the editor and letter to the City Council supporting the proposed building energy disclosure ordinance.

**Action:**

Michelle Schroeder moved that CEAC adopt the letter to the editor. Annette Rondano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Mulloy moved that CEAC adopt the letter to the City Council. Brian Ross seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.