

CEAC Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2014

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Michelle Schroeder, Alexis Troschinetz, Roxanne O'Brien, Jennifer Ringold, Marty Broan, Sam Grant, James Nash

Others in Attendance: Andrea Jenkins, Gayle Prest, Julia Eagles, Mike Luke

Absences: Lisa Daniels, Shalini Gupta, Pat Mulloy, Jamison Tessneer, Meleah Houseknecht, Michelle Stockness

Announcements

1. Robin shared updates on the new [Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee](#) that Council member Gordon is chairing. At the February 10th meeting they will be discussing Gordon's resolution on triclosan in consumer products. The February 24th meeting will include a final report on the Energy Pathways Study, as well as an update on the Climate Action Plan priorities that are recommended by CEAC.
2. Gayle announced that the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department is hosting their [2nd Annual Community Connections Conference- Common Ground: A City that Works for All](#) on Saturday, March 22nd. She encouraged CEAC members to put in a proposal for a workshop, as a good opportunity to share CEAC's work and the work of other community and neighborhood-based groups you're involved with. Proposals are due tomorrow, but they don't need to be all that detailed.
3. The City received funding this year for a full-time food coordinator- the [position was posted](#) yesterday and closes February 12th. Jane Shey had been doing that work with Homegrown Minneapolis and is moving on.
4. Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy is holding a forum this Saturday, January 25th from 12:30-5:00 p.m. [The Forum on Race, Climate and Community Health](#) will include the official release of the Twin Cities Environmental Justice atlas. Several Council members are involved, and Roxanne is on a panel.
5. Meleah gave birth to her baby on January 10th, she won't be present at CEAC meetings for a few months while she's at home with her daughter.
6. February 6th the [Metro Energy Policy Coalition](#) is holding their day-long forum on economic development and energy issues: [Making Connections- Energy Trends and Our Vital Local Economy](#). Registration information is on the MEPC website, fee is \$25 to attend for non-members.
7. Tony shared information about a program on prescription medication drop sites run by Hennepin County, to keep medicines out of the waste and water streams. This was a suggested action area from Deb Swackhammer's presentation at the December meeting.
8. Hennepin County is focusing more on business recycling and organics collection in commercial sector. There are [grant programs for business recycling](#) and [school recycling](#); Tony shared information with the group about both programs.
9. Alexis will send out information about the [Solar Powering Minnesota Conference](#) happening on Friday, March 7th.

Review of Roberts Rules, bylaws and general group process

Darrell raised the topic we had agreed to revisit at our first meeting with new members, including a discussion of group norms and bylaws. Meetings are open to the general public. They also provided clarification, per the by-laws, on how CEAC members represent themselves publicly - in individual opinion pieces, conference presentations, letters to the editor, etc. These types of communications and presentations shouldn't be presented on behalf of CEAC, but as members of CEAC expressing their personal position and opinions.

Bylaws have not been amended since October 2006. Tony proposed that we make an amendment to the bylaws, to update them with accurate and updated information. Alexis also suggested that we make sure the information about voting is consistent throughout the bylaws.

Roberts Rules- The group did a review of the process and protocol set forth in Roberts Rules, how to introduce motions, amendments, etc. The intention of using Roberts Rules in CEAC is to make group decision-making easier, and to encourage a democratic, orderly process for conducting business. Sam brought up a question of how Robert's Rules are sometimes used as a tool of marginalization of perspectives from the outside, and CEAC should thus be intentional about how those rules are used.

Darrell mentioned that approving the agenda is an important opportunity to make suggestions or changes to the meeting discussion. That should be done at the beginning, rather than once the meeting is already underway. We should also be thoughtful about how the group norms interface with Robert's Rules. Tony brought up that we often have more on the agenda than we are able to discuss, and the subcommittees are intended to do work outside of meetings.

Approval of agenda and December minutes

Ross moved to approve the agenda, Sam seconded it. Agenda was passed unanimously.

Ross moved to approve the minutes, Tony seconded. Michelle had a correction to the attendance listed in the December meeting minutes (Casie Schennum was not present). December minutes were unanimously approved, with the correction to Others in Attendance.

Officer Election Process for February meeting

Gayle and Darrell suggested using a secret ballot for electing new officers, to encourage a fair process. Potential officers would be nominated (self nominatio ok) and have a chance to share with the group why they are interested in the positions, in conversations offline before the February meeting.

Darrell and Ross shared their experience serving as chairs or vice chairs of CEAC, how much work is involved and what the expectations are. Sustainability staff help to prepare for the meetings, in cooperation with the officers. Tony suggested either a secret ballot or consensus, depending on the group process. There were no objections to doing a secret ballot.

Member discussion on experience, interest and CEAC priorities

Members shared some personal experience, interest in CEAC and ideas for priorities in the next year.

Tony- Worked for Hennepin County for the past 10 years. Role on CEAC to bringing issues of importance from CEAC back to the County, and vice versa. Works in County programs on issues related to environmental services, transit, health. Referenced MN Department of Health [report on health equity](#), it might be worthwhile to have someone from MDH come speak to CEAC, think about how to incorporate that work. Role of CEAC to help communicate information around health disparities, address unintended consequences of city policies that may impact equity.

Marty- History of work with environmental non-profits locally, now working as a sustainability consultant in the private sector and on environmental venture capital. Interested in working on energy issues and the Climate Action Plan with CEAC, and trying to attend the meetings.

Andrea- Council member Elizabeth Glidden's (8th ward) policy aide, Glidden was chair of Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee. Interested in issues of equity and involved as an artist and activist in the broader community on social justice, addressing disparities in the city and policies. Serving as a member of the Environmental Justice subcommittee, would like that to be a broader focus for CEAC.

Sam- As a dad, that's what matters most, is interested in the future for his daughter. An activist on environmental, cultural, and economic justice, looking at the intersection of environment and structural marginalization, the failure of humans to respect our role on the planet and our connections with the earth. Interested in being involved with a local group that is dealing with pressing global challenges, planning to serve on the Environmental Justice and Climate Action Plan Priorities subcommittees.

Alexis- Live in the Seward neighborhood, an active volunteer and resident in that community. Worked for 7 years in environmental consulting, more science focused on water and soil quality. Began working with the Clean Energy Resource Teams about a year ago, helping community groups to plan and implement energy projects. Interested in CEAC as an opportunity to volunteer on a more political level to influence environmental issues. Served on Less Waste Committee, interested in continuing work on the Climate Action Plan (CAP), and the Environmental Justice subcommittee.

Julia- Intern in the Sustainability office, currently a Master of Public Policy Student at the Humphrey School at the U of MN, focusing on energy and environmental policy. Has been involved in the CAP priority-setting work, maintaining and updating the sustainability indicators, Homegrown Minneapolis, and ad hoc support on other sustainability initiatives. Prior work experience in community energy programs, specifically in the Phillips neighborhoods. Excited to be involved in the CAP strategy implementation, more communications and policy work on behalf of the Sustainability office.

Michelle Schroeder- Shared some personal background, worked in support staff positions in law firms. Was recruited by Ross to the green committee as a co-worker, got inspired to be more involved in environmental issues. Became a Board member for the Izaak Walton League and GreenStep Cities, active volunteer in that work. Invited to join CEAC, interested in continuing to work on the Utility Franchise Agreement working group.

James- Also a dad, an electrical engineer at Xcel- Minneapolis Area Engineer. Responsible for reliability in the city, construction projects, and being a resource to explain what work Xcel is doing in the city. First time serving on a committee like this, has been involved in volunteer efforts before. Parents both went to high school in Minneapolis, have lived in the city all his life. Would like to be involved in the Climate Action Plan Priorities and Less Waste subcommittees.

Robin- Council member Gordon's policy aide, serves on the Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition, the Tree Advisory Coalition and involved in the Healthy Bees, Healthy Lives initiative, Homegrown Minneapolis, Minneapolis Energy Options and the utility franchise agreement. Driven by the unique challenges and opportunities we face and how we deal with them. Interested in work at the local government level as cities and counties are the government entities positioned closest to the people and have the ability to intervene and influence. Not a voting member, but interested in seeing CEAC continue work on energy issues and the Climate Action Plan. Encouraged the committee to push for a higher, long-term emissions reduction target than the city currently has and to work to improve compost collection in the Minneapolis. He felt that the City Council is ready and willing to be pushed on some of these issues, CEAC is in a good position to do so.

Ross- Chemical Engineering background, then went to law school, with some focus on public policy. Worked at a law firm doing litigation, made a career change about 3 years ago to work at Fresh Energy working on state laws and legislation on energy, specifically renewable energy. This is his 6th year on CEAC, served as chair for 3 years, involved in Climate Action Plan and Less Waste subcommittees. CEAC Priorities going forward – Continued work on Climate Action Plan priorities, utility franchise agreement, new initiatives- plastic bag ban and dark sky issues.

Roxanne- As a human being, a mother, a daughter, a courageous community member, here to advance racial equity and advocate on behalf of communities that have been under-resourced for generations. Interested in having conversations with people who are not normally accepted as the norm. Got involved in environmental justice issues organically, the goal of sustaining the earth and resources led her to this place.

Darrell- Grew up in Northwest Colorado on a cattle ranch, degree in Aerospace Engineering, went to the Humphrey School to study public policy and work on environmental issues. Moving from volunteering to working professionally in environmental issues, served on the EJAM- Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota for 6 years. Currently work at Clean Water Action, focus area is on water. Main issues working on- Great Lakes, Asian Carp, clean water policies and laws, agriculture and

pollution, contaminants of emerging concern. Priorities for CEAC- Asian carp, climate adaptation work, waste reduction, health impacts of environmental issues, internalizing environmental justice.

Jennifer- Work at the Minneapolis Park Department, in Long-Term Planning. Considering the environment as part of decision-making since high school. Outside of CEAC, much of what I do is around parks and gardening. Priorities for CEAC- Still figuring out the Park Board's role in CEAC, sustainability at MPRB. Parks as an ecological function, not just land and water.

Luke- Audience member. Interested in conservation and land use in urban design, local government work and cities. Works at Federal Housing Authority, not an active member but a regular attendee.

Climate Action Plan Priorities

Alexis suggested that we agree to approve the letter and Climate Action Plan priorities over email since time is limited. She will send out the information to committee members for a vote.

Setting Future CEAC Meeting Dates

Following up on Doodle poll, try and confirm a date now for the February meeting. It sounds like February 18th from 4-6 works for most people. Will have to confirm with a few people based on that new date, but will try to make it work. Proposal is to meet from 3:30-5:30 as a compromise.

Next meeting Tuesday, February 18th from 3:30-5:30.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.