

**Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting
Thursday October 9, 2014 3:30-5:30 p.m. City Hall (350 S 5th Street) Room 132**

Minutes

Attendance: Marty Broan, Lisa Daniels, Darrell Gerber, Alexis Troschinetz, Michelle Stockness, Shalini Gupta, Michelle Schroeder, Tony Hainault, Brian Ross, Meleah Houseknecht, James Nash, Jennifer Ringold, Sam Grant

Others in Attendance: Ross Abbey, Gayle Prest, Laurelyn Sandkamp, Mike Bull, Stephanie Zawistowski, Robin Garwood

Absences: Pat Mulloy, Jamison Tessneer, Roxxanne O'Brien

1) Approval of October Agenda along with August and September meeting minutes. Shalini Gupta called the meeting to order. Motion to approve agenda was moved, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion to approve August and September minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved. Ross Abbey announced that he was resigned from CEAC (he currently represents Fresh Energy as one of the Environmental Advocacy appointed positions) in order to begin work at SunShare. Ross talked about the valuable role of CEAC, how important being an active member has been to his career by helping him learn new skills and network with energy and environmental policy professionals. The group thanked Ross for his leadership, commitment to CEAC, and wished him well.

2) Franchise Fee Agreement Update. The City Council's HECE Committee held a public hearing on October 6 to take comment on the proposed franchise agreements and proposed Clean Energy Partnership Agreements with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy. Michelle Schroeder testified as a citizen and other CEAC members were in attendance as well. The group reviewed the documents. The Franchise Subcommittee reviewed the draft letter on behalf of CEAC in support but it also raises concerns about the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC). CEAC reviewed and edited the letter. Shalini Gupta moved to authorize the Franchise Subcommittee to finalize the letter and for CEAC to approve later by email. Darrell Gerber seconded and motion passed. Michelle Schroeder asked for any additional input ASAP with the goal of sending to the City Council and Mayor prior to City Council's Committee of the Whole meeting on October 15. Robin Garwood also suggested that CEAC could send list of makeup/representation of prospective EVAC members and maybe finalize at next month's meeting.

3) Comments 2015 Draft Environmental Legislative Agenda. Gayle Prest presented the draft 2015 environmental legislative packet of policy changes and requested changes and priority ideas be sent to her by Wednesday, October 15. She highlighted language on disparities in the health section and was interested if anyone in the group had other environmental health or environmental justice language to add. This is something that CEAC has reviewed and commented on annually. One challenge in developing the policy agenda is that many organizations do not approve their legislative agenda until later this year. Typically the City tries to support the work or others and is not available to take the lead in pushing for bills. Gayle reviewed the internal vetting process with the expectation that the City Council will adopt their

legislative agenda in November or December. It is expected that transportation policy will be a priority this year although much will depend upon outcome of November elections and the statewide budget forecasts. Since the 2015 session is the first year of the biennium, the two-year state budget must be adopted. The group was encouraged to go to the City's website to sign up for "Policy Pulse" –weekly email talking about what City staff are doing with the legislature.

4) Overview of Mayor's 2015 Recommended Budget. Earlier Shalini Gupta had requested an overview of the Mayor's 2015 Recommended Budget for environmental activities. An overview on significant changes from 2014 approved budget was distributed. This includes \$150,000 new one-time funds related to the Clean Energy Partnership and \$8 million for residential organic composting program.

5) CEAC 2014-2015 Membership Application Process. Darrell Gerber reminded folks that applications for CEAC 2015-2016 term are due by October 15. Applications were also passed out and staff volunteered to collect and process. Pat Mulloy, and Alexis Troschinetz are not reapplying. Sam Grant is undecided.

CEAC members were also asked to help recruit new members and some of those efforts were mentioned. The first few months are expected to focus on grounding of committee on norms and strategic work plan. One possible model to be discussed is using the Minneapolis Food Council example whereby subcommittee working time is built into the Food Council's monthly meetings. Darrell Gerber encouraged the group to contact him if members have things you want to work on within CEAC. Two CEAC designees will be reviewing applications – Darrell suggested he and Shalini do it as chair and vice chair.

6) Committee Breakouts. Alexis expressed interest in meeting as breakout groups and would like to allocate time for that in the future since there wasn't enough time today. Michelle Schroeder suggested that groups need to plan a goal for the breakout session. Darrell encouraged chairs to contact Shalini and Darrell.

7) Announcements.

- The farm stand ordinance amendments related to urban farms passed the City Council and the, City was recently awarded \$3.4 million federal HUD lead abatement grant.
- MPRB Ecological Systems Update – Michelle Stockness is the CEAC rep to this group. There have been two meetings with various organizations focusing on outreach, community feedback, retooling. Another meeting is scheduled at the end of the month. Based on early committee feedback there is a need for concrete structure in order to gain input. Darrell suggested the group make recommendations for related sustainability indicators. Measurements of ecological function of park system can inform indicators and vice versa.
- Hennepin County Board is on schedule to approve HERC \$1.5 million pollution upgrades. HERC currently operates below MPCA permit limits and is proactively taking additional measures using best available technology to reduce emissions further.

8) Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.