

CEAC Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2014

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Pat Mulloy, Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Michelle Schroeder, Brian Ross, Michelle Stockness, Jennifer Ringold, James Nash, Meleah Houseknecht, Lisa Daniels,

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback, Noah Shavit-Lonstein, Pattie O’Keefe, Robin Garwood

Absences: Jamison Tessneer, Marty Broan, Alexis Troschinetz, Shalini Gupta, Eduardo Cardenas, Sam Grant, Roxxanne O’Brien

Approval of Agenda and June minutes:

Agenda and minutes approved. Minutes amended to reflect that Shalini should be in attendees not other.

City Staff and Member Announcements

1. MPCA Environmental Assistance Grants are available and applications are due July 16. Many categories of projects are eligible.
2. Pat is organizing a tour of Shakopee compost facility on July 16th at 10:00 am. Meet at Little Six Casino at 10 am.
3. Honeybee Ordinance Amendments went to HECE committee on July 18. These changes would eliminate the signature requirement for keeping bees. The amendments go to full City Council next week.
4. July 14-18 is Minneapolis Bragging week. July 18th is a focus on Sustainability Focus. Bragging via social media is encouraged. Use the hashtag #bragmpls. More information is available at:
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/news/bragging/index.htm>
5. A Minnehaha Creek Clean Up is happening at 9 a.m on July 27th at Lake Hiawatha Park (28th Avenue S and 46th Street E) to clean up after the recent flooding.
6. Midwest Mountaineering is offering \$5,000 grants for environmental projects. Proposals are due July 31. The application is very short.
7. There will be a biochar event on July 21st at Medicine Gardens. Gayle will be sending out more information.
8. The EPA released rules for limiting carbon pollution from existing power plants. The rules are now subject to a one year comment period. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions 30% from 2005 (which is 18-20% from current levels). The comment period closes October 16th, 2015.
9. A new federal Clean Water Rule is currently subject to a comment period. There is an opportunity for individuals to submit comments at Clean Water Action’s website. The water subcommittee may discuss moving forward a letter to the City Council to officially take a position. The EPA has started a social media campaign to dispel myths about the rule at #ditchthemyth.
10. Darrell will be starting a new position at the Freshwater Society. His role on CEAC won’t change.
11. The Clean Energy Jobs summit will be held on Thursday the 17th from 7 am to 1 pm at MacNamara Alumni Center at the U of M.
12. Car2Go is expanding to St. Paul on July 19th. You will be able to park vehicles in St. Paul.

13. Staff will come back to CEAC later this summer with more information on activity at the PUC related to energy usage data.
14. There has been a tentative agreement reached on SW LRT between Minneapolis and Met Council. The City still needs to officially approve the plan and give municipal consent.

Update on Utility Negotiations

Brendon Slotterback gave an update on the franchise negotiations that have begun between the City and the energy utilities. The presentation was very similar to the update that the City Coordinator's office gave on July 7th.

Update on Community Indicators and next steps

Gayle gave an update. The Community Indicators update process will be postponed until fall of 2014 given resources available in the Coordinator's office. CEAC subcommittees should continue to review the indicators and gather feedback.

Committee Updates and Breakouts

Climate & Air

The last thing the group worked on was the 2050 carbon reduction goal. Ross has met with staff about electric vehicle charging and LED streetlights. The committee has been talking about a divestment campaign for a few years. This campaign has been advocating for large organizations to divest in funds that include fossil fuel companies. The City doesn't have resources invested in these companies, and they don't have a great deal of money in the stock market. MN350 is ramping up a campaign targeting state funds and the University of Minnesota. The Climate & Air Committee may consider a draft letter to the Council on taking a symbolic action that would say the city would not invest in fossil fuel companies in the future.

Robin said that his office was working on a resolution that they are hoping to pass in September or October. This is a time when students are back in session, and gives the City a platform to message to other groups that have money in these companies such as the U of M, local asset management firms and pension funds for city employees. CEAC could look at the resolution in August.

James Nash noted that he wanted to be part of the Climate & Air subcommittee. Meleah suggested that the subcommittee could talk about density and planning issues, including accessory dwelling units, as part of the subcommittee.

Less Waste

Alexis could not attend due to a conflict. Gayle notes there is a lot of activity happening around waste reduction and recycling, and that there could be lots of things the subcommittee could work on. There was some discussion of organizing a meeting of members of other cities' environmental commissions.

Water

Subcommittee members met with Lois Eberhart, Public Works stormwater staff, to brainstorm about where illicit discharges might be coming from. They subcommittee also started reviewing new community indicators for stormwater. They might work with the EJ subcommittee about flooding and brownfields. Other issues the group might explore are: Met Council water planning and the Envision infrastructure sustainability rating system.

The lock on Upper Saint Anthony Falls will be closed permanently within one year due to Congressional action. This may help stop the spread of invasive carp.

Utility Franchise

The subcommittee will set another meeting date soon. The subcommittee will work on advocacy around the franchise negotiations. The group may work on cable set top boxes in relation to energy use and the city's cable franchise.

EJ Subcommittee

Darrell will ask for an update from other subcommittee members via email. Darrell and Pat have not been able to make recent meetings.

August 14th meeting items

Darrell suggested that the meeting could be a shorter working meeting with a social event afterwards. CEAC would start the conversation about applications for 2015 members and recruitment. Brian suggested that he could host the event at his house.

Subcommittee breakouts

CEAC adjourned for subcommittees to meet individually to discuss work plans.

Future meeting items

- August – social event
- August – follow up on divestment
- September – Update on Franchise/CEP negotiations

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned 5:21.