

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Thursday April 9, 2015 3:00-5:00 p.m. City Hall (350 S 5th Street) Room 132

Minutes

Attendance: Dylan Bradford Kesti, Anna Abruzzese, Andrew Murray, Allan Campbell, Jen Kader, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Stockness, Darrell Gerber, Meleah Houseknecht, James Nash, Martha Ockenfels-Martinez, Eduardo Cardenas, Tony Hainault, Adam Arvidson

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback, Kellie Kish, Alexis Troschnitz, Mike Luke, Joel Jensen, Aubrey Fonfara

Absences: Shalini Gupta, Roxxanne O'Brien, Brian Ross, Alejandro Ojeda Saint Martin

- 1) **Agenda and Minutes.** Anna Abruzzese opened the meeting. Adam Arvidson made a motion seconded by Jen Kader to approve April agenda and March meeting minutes. Motion carried.
- 2) **Working Group Breakouts.** Time was built into the agenda for the working groups to meet for over an hour. The Zero Waste and Climate Action met concurrently, and then the Overburdened Communities and Water working groups met concurrently.
- 3) **Working Group Updates.**
 - **Zero Waste.** Chair Andrew Murray mentioned that on Monday the group will meet with Council Member Cam Gordon to discuss their group's possible role in a plastic bag initiative, the Mayor's Zero Waste initiative and other waste items. The group is diving deeper into understanding the current commercial waste collection system.
 - **Overburdened Communities.** Martha Ockenfels-Martinez reviewed their efforts. The group discussed the proposed Minneapolis Public Works facility expansion for the Water division's needs on the current Roof Depot site located in East Phillips neighborhood (about East 28th and 26th Streets, west of Hiawatha Avenue and east of Longfellow Avenue South). Community members are concerned about additional air quality and other pollution concerns and the group would like to understand the project better. Martha made a motion, seconded by Alan to request that appropriate city staff come to the May CEAC meeting to discuss the proposed project. Motion passed. Based on what is learned, the Overburdened Communities group may draft a letter for CEAC consideration to the City Council.
 - **Climate Action / Clean Energy Partnership.** James Nash gave the overview. The group reviewed the Climate Action Plan 2-year work plan, and also received an update on the proposed Clean Energy Partnership. The group is interested in working with the Comprehensive Plan Task Force and at a future meeting to receive a tutorial on how the Public Utilities Commission's dockets work since dockets like Community Solar Gardens, Xcel's Integrated Resource Plan and others fit closely into the City's efforts.
 - **Water.** Jen gave the update. The members has three key focuses: reducing chloride/salt use by working with Master Water Stewards, pursue stormwater reuse, and integrating green infrastructure better into city policies – including street infrastructure.
 - **Comprehensive Plan Task Force.** The group did not meet, but Jen mentioned that they plan to ask City Planning staff to give an overview on the upcoming Comprehensive Plan process and timeline.
- 4) **City Staff and Member Announcements:**
 - The City Council will soon be releasing the Community Innovation Fund which will provide competitive funding to neighborhood organizations that address City Goals. The City goals

include one on eliminating disparities and one on protected environment. Gayle Prest will send out the link.

- Darrel mentioned that the Freshwater Society is organizing a free lecture on April 30 7:00 pm re: The Outsized Role of Earth's Largest Lakes with Dr. Robert W. Sterner. He will send info out to the group.
- Meleah Houseknecht updated the group on the Transportation Funding Rally at the state capital next Thursday at noon.
- Jen mentioned that Great River Greening is recruiting many volunteers and she also offered up small seedlings of white pine and red oak in her car.
- On April 19 from 2:00-4:30, the Women's Environmental Initiative is holding a spring fundraiser at Gandhi Mahal restaurant.

5) **Adjourn.** Jen made a motion, seconded by Darrell to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:16 pm.