

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Thursday November 12, 2015 3:30-5:30

Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Anna Abruzzese, Adam Arvidson, Allan Campbell, Lisa Daniels, Tony Hainault, Meleah Houseknecht, Andrew Murray, James Nash, Roxxanne OBrien, Alejandro Ojeda Saint-Martin, Michelle Stockness

Others in Attendance: Jenna Grove (guest, CEAC appointment in Council approval process), Kelly Muellman, Brendon Slotterback

Absences: Dylan Bradford Kesti, Eduardo Cardenas, Darrell Gerber, Jen Kader, Brian Ross

1) Meeting Called to Order

Anna Abruzzese called the meeting called to order at 3:35p.m. There was no quorum at this time to approve the agenda and October minutes. There was consensus to move forward with the agenda, noting that Dylan Bradford Kesti would not be able to attend to update CEAC on a new development in the City's negotiations to acquire the Roof Depot properties. Ms. Abruzzese had CEAC members quickly introduce themselves for Jenna Grove, whose appointment on CEAC will go to City Council on November 20.

2) Public Utilities Commission E Docket 101

Brendon Slotterback provided a background on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The PUC is a quasi-judicial agency that exists to regulate utilities (electric, gas, water). He noted that the general public does not regularly engage in meetings, rather it is mostly lawyers, technical experts.

Mr. Slotterback showed the PUC website (<http://mn.gov/puc/>) and pointed out a few useful links:

- Calendar, can filter by Event Type (e.g., public hearing or planning meeting)
- Speak Up: user-friendly search feature for Open Discussions which allows anyone to make brief comments on active issues
- E-Dockets: see all comments and related documents by docket number. The docket number tracks all communication/correspondence for particular issue/topic. It is a significant effort for the public to engage in the process and read all comments, which is why the Speak Up feature was created
 - A few dockets that CEAC might be interested in:
 - Xcel's Community Solar Gardens: E002/M-13-867
 - Xcel's Integrated Resource Plan: E002/RP-15-21
 - Further Investigation into updating environmental and socioeconomic costs of making electricity related to: carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter less than 2.5: E999/CI-14-643
 - Commission inquiry into grid modernization: E999/CI-15-556
 - Search for E-Dockets here:
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showeDocketsSearch&showEocket=true&userType=public>

3) Approval of November Agenda and October Meeting Minutes

CEAC met quorum by 4pm. Allan moved and Andrew seconded the approval of the November agenda and October meetings.

4) MPRB Neighborhood Master Planning (Adam Arvidson)

Adam Arvidson, the CEAC representative from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) gave a presentation on the MPRB Neighborhood Master Planning process. The Park Board plans to use the Master Planning process to vision for future park usages and inform the Capital Improvement Plan (the rolling 6-year project que and budget). The Park Board started with the Downtown Service Master Plan and the South

Service Area (south of downtown, east of 35W, all the way to southern border). The South Service Area Master Plan will hopefully go to Board approval in April 2016. The plan is for North Minneapolis Service Area Master Plan process to start in 2017; Southwest and Northeast/Southeast are planned for 2018. However, there is interest in accelerating the process timeline. Mr. Arvidson spoke about the extensive community engagement process that the Park Board undertook during summer 2015, including:

- Community Advisory Committee meetings
- More than 30 public events, such as movies in the park, cultural fairs, open streets, etc.
- Eight Open Houses (in partnership with MPRB's "Closing the Gap" Open Houses)
- Surveyed people (especially youth & teens at parks and events)
- Online visual preference surveys

MPRB staff provided photo preference boards (to overcome language barriers) and stickers for participants to "vote" on which facilities they currently use most, which facilities they desired most, how they would rate MPRB level of service, which landscape style they preferred (e.g., natural versus manicured), and importance of environmentally sustainable practices (e.g., permeable pavement, and potentially greater costs)

MPRB analyzed the results by geography and event, but saw general agreement across the service area. The community input results will be used not only for neighborhood park master plans, but also as input to inform Ecological System Plan, scheduled for 2016.

5) Update on Roof Depot Acquisition

Roxanne OBrien provided an update on a new development in the City's negotiations to acquire the Roof Depot properties. A few CEAC members had received an email from Council Member Cano written by Public Works staff requesting authority from the City Council's Ways and Means Committee to acquire the property through negotiations or condemnation. There was discussion about whether CEAC should write a letter in support of the community, who opposes the City's acquisition of this property in addition to the letter CEAC sent to City Council earlier this year. There was not enough support for this action. Instead, the Overburdened Communities work group will find out more information and return to CEAC with a recommended action before the December 7th Ways and Means Committee meeting.

4) ~~Getting to know fellow CEAC members~~

The meeting ran out of time. Introductions by Allan, Alejandro and Meleah will be moved to next meeting.

5) Working Group Updates

- **Zero Waste:** Andrew Murray gave update that the City Council is still considering bag ban although it is not actively moving forward in order to make sure it's done right and doesn't scare people.
- **Climate:** Tony Hainault reported on an idea to work with Nice Ride on broader coverage across City. There has been some interest from Nice Ride on moving into North Minneapolis. There is a grant that the work group may be applying for to pursue this service expansion.

6) City Staff and Member Announcements

- Brendon gave an update on the popularity of the 2015 Home Energy Squad buy downs for income qualified residents and zero interest loans that is funded by the City as part of the Clean Energy Partnership.
- Anna Abruzzese asked for volunteers to examine CEAC bylaws and recommend revisions. Andrew Murray, Alejandro Ojeda Saint-Martin, Roxanne OBrien, Meleah Houseknecht, and Tony Hainault volunteered. Andrew Murray will be the coordinator.

7) Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 5:31p.m.