



## Public Health Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 26, 2012, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Minneapolis City Hall

350 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 132

### AGENDA

Agenda Item	Presenter	Time	Committee Action
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Karen Soderberg/ John Schrom	6:00-6:05	Approve agenda
<b>PHAC Logistics and Updates</b> Approve 4/24 and 5/44 meeting minutes  Revamping PHAC	Karen Soderberg/ John Schrom  John Schrom	6:05-6:20	Approve Minutes  Participate in Survey
<b>MN HIV Prevention Plan</b>	Peter Carr	6:20-7:05	Discussion
<b>Recreational Fires Discussion</b>	All	7:05-7:40	Discussion of recommendations
<b>Information Sharing</b>	All	7:40-8:00	Discussion

**Next Meeting:** July 24, 2012, Minneapolis City Hall, Room 132

If there are any problems/changes the night of the meeting, please call 612-919-3855.

**City of Minneapolis  
Public Health Advisory Committee  
2012  
6/26/2012**

	Seat	Committee Member First	Committee Member Last	Check-in (Initial)
1	Reich	Julie	Ring	✓
2	Gordon	Robin	Schow	✓
3	Hofstede	Patricia	Hillmeyer	✓
4	Johnson	Saeng	Kue	
5	Samuels	Tara	Jenson	✓
6	Lilligren	Happy	Reynolds-Cook	
7	Goodman	Karen	Soderberg	✓
8	Glidden	Abdullahi	Sheikh	✓
9	Schiff	John	Schrom	✓
10	Tuthill	Linda	Welter	✓
11	Quincy	Robert	Burdick	✓
12	Colvin Roy	Autumn	Chmielewski	✓
13	Hodges	Dr. Rebecca	Thoman	✓
9	Mayor's Representative	Silvia	Perez	✓
	Minneapolis Public Schools	Julie	Young-Burns	
	Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department	Jonathan	Hanft	✓
	U of M School of Public Health	Alan	Lifson	
10	Member at Large	Samira	Dini	✓
	Member at Large	Daniel	Brady	✓
	Member at Large	Douglas	Limon	
	Urban Health Professional Advisory Committee	Revolving	Revolving	
	Urban Health Agenda Community Advisory Committee Representative	Revolving	Revolving	
	MDHFS Staff	Gretchen	Musicant	
	MDHFS Staff	Aliyah	Ali	✓
	MDHFS Staff	Kim	Stringfellow	✓
	Guest, MDH	Peter	Carr	

## Memorandum

TO: Minneapolis City Council

FROM: Minneapolis Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC)

DATE: June 6, 2012

RE: CEAC Recommendations regarding Recreational Fires

At the October 12, 2011 Public Safety Civil Rights and Health Committee of the City Council there was a presentation by Environmental Management and Safety Manager - Dan Huff, Housing Inspections Director - Tom Deegan; and Assistant Fire Chief - Dave DeWall relating to recreational fires and its impacts on air quality, as well as information about enforcing the existing ordinance.

At the meeting, the following motion by Council Member Gordon was approved.  
*Recreational Fires: In response to directive, report on the air quality and health impacts of smoke from recreational fires, and on requirements and enforcement of City ordinances.*  
*Action Taken: Received & Filed Report. Formally requested the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee to review the recreational fire ordinance and consider possible improvements both from a health and safety perspective.*

The Minneapolis Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee received presentations from staff representing Regulatory Services and the Fire Department. We also invited the advocacy group Take Back the Air to present their thoughts on the matter.

In 2011, the Minneapolis Fire Department received approximately 330 calls related to recreational fires. Of these about 20 were in non-compliance of the existing fire code. There were 36,000 calls to the Fire Department in 2011 – recreational calls represent less than 1% of all calls. While there are recreational fires all year long – the majority of the complaints happen in the summer – when windows are open and more people are out of doors. In 2011, Regulatory Services received 11 calls about recreational fires primarily about smoke and burning items other than wood.

### **Environmental/health issues**

- Recreational fires are a source of air pollution
  - Particulate matter
  - Toxics: Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) and Carbon Monoxide
- Recreational fires may have a significant impact on neighbors

### **Major criteria for developing recommendations:**

- Impact on health
- Impact on environment
- Resources needed
- Regulatory burden
- Responsiveness to public opinion

### **CEAC Recommendations:**

#### **1. Stronger education/outreach campaign regarding the recreational fire ordinance, such as:**

- Enhanced presence under Fire Department website
- Short Public Service announcement video
- Social media
- Other messaging such as utility bill inserts, enhanced outreach with press releases, City Council newsletters, Neighborhood Environmental Newsletter, etc.

#### **Notes:**

Important to reach out in multiple languages and venues in order to reach the City's diverse population.

Messaging should include clear, concise language related to environmental and health impacts of vulnerable populations.

#### **2. City Code revisions**

- The Minneapolis Code of Ordinances Chapter 178.20 should be updated in order that recreational fires are banned during Air Quality Alert Days, PM 2.5 for the metropolitan area as determined by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- When extinguished, the fire must not be allowed to smolder.

#### **3. Enhanced Training**

- Conduct training of key City staff including 911, 311, and Fire Department on the ordinance.
- Recommend that Fire Department staff review Chapter 178.20 and develop policy language (not ordinance changes) to define "nuisance" fires and "excessive" smoke.

#### **Conclusions:**

- CEAC did not address the issue of fires in City parks since this is primarily under the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's jurisdiction.
- According to Regulatory Services staff, fires related to cooking such as restaurant wood pizza stoves are exempt by state fire code so this was not addressed.
- The region is currently in attainment under the federal Clean Air Act for PM 2.5. If we were to fall into non-attainment, ordinances that regulate Recreational Fires may need to be re-examined on a broader regional issue.
- We considered permits/registration similar to the City of Edina, but based on the amount of effort, cost to implement it, and effectiveness, it was not deemed a wise choice.
- We also discussed an all-out ban on recreational fires. Because of the limited amount of calls, probable difficulty in enforcement and the opportunities to try other options, it is not recommended at this time.

## Minneapolis Code: CHAPTER 178. RECREATIONAL FIRES

178.10. Definitions. Recreational fire. A small outdoor fire burning approved materials for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

Approved materials. Fuel for a recreational fire consisting solely of unpainted wood which has not been treated in any manner with chemicals or preservatives. (2003-Or-143, § 1, 12-15-03)

178.20. Applicable rules. Every person starting, engaging in, conducting or hosting a recreational fire shall observe and comply with the following regulations, which are reflected in or are in addition to those imposed by the Minnesota State Fire Code:

- (1) The total fuel area being burned in any recreational fire shall not exceed three (3) feet in diameter and two (2) feet in height.
- (2) Recreational fires shall not be conducted within twenty-five (25) feet of a structure or combustible material.
- (3) A surrounding fire barrier of non-combustible material that is at least six (6) inches in height must be used.
- (4) Only approved materials may be burned in a recreational fire.
- (5) Recreational fires shall be constantly attended by at least one competent person eighteen (18) years of age or older and shall be completely extinguished before being abandoned.
- (6) On-site fire-extinguishing equipment - such as operable garden hoses, sand and shovels, water buckets or barrels, or a portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating - shall be readily available for use at recreational fires.
- (7) Recreational fires shall only be conducted between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- (8) Recreational fires shall not be conducted if prevailing wind conditions exceed ten m.p.h. (2003-Or-143, § 1, 12-15-03)

178.30. Discontinuance. The fire chief, chief of police or any authorized member of the fire department, fire prevention bureau, or officer of the police department may order the immediate extinguishment or may themselves immediately extinguish any recreational fire which falls into any one of the following categories:

- (1) Creates a hazardous or unsafe condition.
- (2) Creates a nuisance or reasonably objectionable situation for any nearby resident.
- (3) Violates any provision of this chapter or of any other chapter of this Code.
- (4) Violates any provision of the Minnesota State Fire Code. (2003-Or-143, § 1, 12-15-03)

178.40. Penalty. (a) Each violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a petty misdemeanor, for which the maximum fine shall be eighty dollars (\$80.00).

(b) The fire chief, chief of police or any authorized member of the fire department, fire prevention bureau, or officer of the police department shall have the power and duty to enforce this chapter through appropriate administrative and legal remedies, including but not limited to issuance of citation. (2003-Or-143, § 1, 12-15-03)

178.50. Applicability. This chapter shall apply solely to recreational fires (including portable freestanding fireplaces and "chimineas") but shall not apply to barbeque grills, incinerators, barbeque pits or any other appliances or burning otherwise specifically regulated by the Minnesota State Fire Code. (2003-Or-143, § 1, 12-15-03)

178.60. Conflict. In the event that any provisions of this chapter conflict with the Minnesota State Fire Code or any other federal or Minnesota statute, rule, or law, the more restrictive provision shall prevail. (2003-Or-143, § 1, 12-15-03)