

CEAC Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2013

Attendance: Kevin Bengtson, Lisa Daniels, Diane Daun, Shalini Gupta, Tony Hainault, Meleah Houseknecht, Pat Mulloy, Roxanne O'Brien, Jennifer Ringold, Annette Rondano, Brian Ross, Michelle Schroeder, Sarah Sponheim, Michelle Stockness, Alexis Troschinetz

Others in Attendance: Paul Aasen, Chuck Dayton, Will Dolezal, Leslie Foreman, Lea Foushee, Robin Garwood, Patrick Hanlon, Geoff Matsen, Cecilia Martinez, Katie Rojas-Jahn, Gregg Pratt (MPCA), Gayle Prest, Margaret Schuster, Jane Shey, Kim Spellman, Brendon Slotterback, Kody Thurnau, Wesli Waters

Absences: Ross Abbey, Marty Broan, Darrell Gerber, Jamison Tessneer

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Chair Sarah Sponheim called the meeting to order at 5:01. Changed the minutes to reflect that Jennifer Ringold attended the February meeting. Agenda approved and February meeting minutes approved.

Announcements

1. Annual Earth Hour is on March 23rd from 8:30 to 9:30. The City Council will be passing a resolution and City buildings will be turning off non-essential lights. Private buildings are encouraged to participate.
2. City Trees. Six- eight foot trees are available for \$25. Ordering starts March 25th. Only 1,000 trees will be available this year. The City Council recommended that the four wards with the lowest participation get early access on March 18th to boost participation.
3. League of Women Voters is holding their 3rd annual Healthy Legacy Event on Climate Change on Thursday, March 14th, 5:30 to 9 pm, Mark Seeley, Gayle Prest, J. Drake Hamilton will speak.
4. Rethink Recycling community power grants are due April 1. Non-environmental organizations are eligible for the grants. The grants are intended to promote outreach on waste.
5. This Tuesday the City's Property Services department presented to Results Minneapolis (the City's performance management system) meeting. Information on energy efficiency, ev charging stations and renewable energy was presented. In the last four years, buildings and fleet reduced greenhouse gas emissions 17.5 percent and avoided \$6 million in energy costs.
6. The Climate Action Plan process is entering its final stages, with the Steering Committee now meeting to review the work of the Environmental Justice Working Group and finalize a document. The Steering Committee will meet in March and April. More information is available on the Sustainability website.
7. Bees on City Hall. It is currently not possible to get a permit for a rooftop hive given how the ordinance is currently written, so the City is working to amend the ordinance to allow the hives. The City is seeking donations to fund the two hives at \$700 each. This will serve as a demonstration project to show that it can be done in an urban area, on a rooftop. Gayle would be willing to work with people to accept smaller donations.
8. Hennepin County is having more Fix-It Clinics. The next clinics are on Saturday, March 9th in Minneapolis, and April 13th. Tony passed out promotion posters.
9. Hennepin County is rolling out new signage for organic composting to standardize the use of signs. Tony distributed an example.
10. Gardening Matters is having their Spring Resource Fair this Saturday in Saint. Paul. This is a large event, with lots of resources for gardeners/urban farmers.
11. On March 28th, the 10th Ward is sponsoring a City Council candidate environmental forum at 7 pm at Bryant Square Park.
12. On May 22-25th the Neighborhoods USA Conference (NUSA) will be held in Minneapolis at the Hyatt. Sarah will send out a link to information and registration.

13. There is a lot of activity right now at the legislature around solar energy legislation. A number of bills would make significant changes to solar energy policy in Minnesota. These include changing net metering laws, adopting a solar energy standard, allowing community solar projects, third-party financing of solar projects, and more. Bills are changing rapidly as the session progresses.
14. The Xcel Energy Solar Rewards Program and the MN Bonus rebate will open on Monday, March 11th. The program will likely fill up very fast.

Adopt 2013 Meeting Calendar

Brendon read the results of the survey of CEAC members. The most preferred result from the survey was 3 to 5 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. This would mean two meetings would have to be moved or canceled due to holidays – November and December. Changing the meeting date and time was moved and seconded, and a vote was unanimous. April 24th will be the next CEAC meeting.

Environmental Justice Atlas

Dr. Cecilia Martinez and Geoff Matsen presented the work done by Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED) and University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) on the draft Environmental Justice Atlas. The Atlas is a mapping project that layers demographic information with environmental hazards and environmental amenities to understand what communities are most impacted and what communities most benefit. The purpose is to understand the concept of environmental justice in greater detail. When the Atlas is complete, it will be a web-based tool that anyone can access.

Subcommittee Updates

Sarah would like to have a meeting with the subcommittee chairs to identify what their charge is and how the Buildings & Energy group would differ from the Air & Climate subcommittee.

There was a discussion about how CEAC should address the issue of environmental justice. A number of options were discussed, including a separate subcommittee on environmental justice or incorporating it into the work of each subcommittee. There was one suggestion to do both. This issue was not resolved at this meeting.

Video or audio taping meetings

Roxxanne suggested that CEAC be video and/or audio taped so that people who were not in the room could view the meetings. The City does not have the capacity to tape CEAC meetings, the group could think about whether they wanted to do it themselves if they have capacity. The group discussed other possible options to accomplish transparency.

Kevin suggested that staff put the meeting minutes and agenda on the website and put an archive of those items up.

Staff said they will begin archiving the meeting minutes and agendas on the website:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/approach/teams/WCMS1P-105205>

Future meeting agenda items

More discussion on video and audio taping the group meetings
Sustainability Indicators - April
Regional Energy Indicators - May
Humphrey Institute Capstone project on climate adaptation - April

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

CEAC Subcommittees
April 24, 2013

	Chair	Members	Typical meeting times	2013 ideas
Less Waste	Sarah	Jamison, Annette, Diane, Tony, Ross	2:00-3:00 before CEAC meeting	
Water	Darrell			
Air Climate	Ross	Michelle Schroeder, Meleah, Sarah, Lisa, Pat, Shalini		
Utility Franchise	Michelle Schroeder	Brian, Pat, Meleah, Sarah, Lisa, Shalini		
Buildings: Energy Efficiency and Renewables?	Marty	Alexis, Kevin		

Request everyone join a subcommittee in next few months