

CEAC Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2014

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Stockness, Shalini Gupta, Alexis Troschinetz, Pat Mulloy, Brian Ross, Darrell Gerber, Meleah Houseknecht, Jennifer Ringold, Tony Hainault

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback, Robin Garwood, Aisha Gomez

Absences: Eduardo Cardenas, Jamison Tessneer, Michelle Schroeder, Roxxanne O'Brien, James Nash, Marty Broan, Sam Grant

Approval of Agenda and January minutes

February minutes were approved. March minutes were approved, changing the spelling of quorum. Agenda was approved.

Announcements

1. On April 15th Sustainability staff will be bringing the long-term carbon reduction goal for the City to the HECE committee. CEAC submitted a letter to the Council in support of an 80 or more reduction goal, which is consistent with the staff recommendation.
2. The City received a pass through grant for Project Sweetie Pie to do urban farming projects. The grant will be discussed at the April 15th HECE meeting.
3. At the April 28th meeting of the HECE committee the Tree Advisory Committee will be giving their annual update on activities and the state of the urban forest.
4. Also at the April 28th meeting, the Health Department will be making a presentation on their efforts on healthy living.
5. On April 29th City staff and Council Member Gordon will be attending a PUC meeting to present the City's work on the Pathways study. The meeting is intended to inform the PUC about Minneapolis' work and let them know we may be returning to them if other issues arise.
6. A number of ordinances are being worked on related to compost and mobile grocery stores. There will be a public hearing in May.
7. Tamara Downs Schwei is the new Sustainability staff person working on the Homegrown initiative and is starting in May.
8. The City's new Vision, Goals and Strategic Directions were adopted by the City Council. This document drives the development of business plans, performance measures, and potentially the revision of the sustainability indicators.
9. Metro Blooms is offering rain garden workshops this spring. More information is at: www.myraingarden.org
10. Saturday, April 26 9:30 am – noon is the annual Minneapolis Earth Day clean up. More information is available on the Park Board's website.
11. The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) is offering discounts on compost bins and rain barrels. See their website for more information: www.recycleminnesota.org
12. Minneapolis Bike-Walk week is the 4th – 11th of May. More information is at <http://bikewalkweek.org/>. Also 30 days of biking began last week.
13. The Park Board is having a recycling walk-run on April 19th. 2, 5 and 10k walk or run. The money raised will go to incubator grants for innovative projects in Park Board facilities.
14. Zero Waste Forum was held on March 20th. The event built momentum around the concept of zero waste and moving towards city-wide organics collection. Eight council members attended.
15. There is a Clean Energy Rally at the state capitol April 22nd at 4 pm.

16. Pat noted that 13 months ago he first brought up that we're spending money on a stadium that is hosting teams that use a racial slur. They will also be playing at the Gopher Stadium soon.
17. Shalini asked about the impact of the EJ letter that CEAC sent to the Council. Gayle said it shaped the Vision, Goals and Strategic Directions. Robin said that CM Glidden passed a strategic direction for staff to report back on how to develop an equity action plan.
18. The Environmental Initiative awards are coming up on May 22nd. There are a number of projects associated with Minneapolis that are among the finalists. More information is available at Environmental Initiative's website.
19. Tomorrow there is a watershed event at the Mill City Museum. Many events are part of it, including a panel, food and a movie. It is free to attend.
20. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has released parts of their latest report, documenting the scientific consensus on climate change, the threats it poses and the options for mitigation. It is available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5>
21. Comments on the Met Council's draft for the new regional plan, Thrive MSP 2040, are due April 28th. There will be two public meetings to give feedback on the plan: from 5 – 6:30 pm at Heywood Office Building tonight, and tomorrow in the Met Council chambers in St. Paul at 390 Robert Street at 5 pm. CEAC members mentioned that they would like to see a copy of the comments that the City is sending. Pat suggested that if anyone has comments, they can circulate them to other members if they would like to add them. Darrell suggested that a subgroup could take that on if they were interested. Brian said he would put together comments on climate change and Ross, Lisa, Shalini, Meleah and Tony would work on developing a draft for CEAC.

Long-Term Carbon Emissions Reduction Goal

Julia Eagles gave a presentation on the options for a long-term carbon reduction goal. The City Council gave staff direction to bring back a reduction on a long-term carbon reduction goal now later than the April 14th HECE meeting. The recommendation of staff and the Air & Climate subcommittee is for an 80 percent or more reduction in community greenhouse gases by 2050 below 2006 levels.

CEAC members discussed some changes to the letter that Ross will include.

- Shalini suggested changing “could also be justified” to “is also justified”.
- Meleah suggested that “capital investments” be its own bullet.
- Jennifer suggested changing “carbon accounting methods” to “carbon accounting and tracking methods”.
- Tony's edits: “Since 1990 the IPCC has reported on the potential international scientific and policy consensus on the consequences from global climate change. The IPCC's 5th assessment report will be completed in 2014. CEAC recommends that the City consider additional reduction goals after that report becomes available.”
- Change “CEAC Appointees” to “CEAC members”
- Add Eduardo's name to the list of members.

Shalini moved the vote, directing staff to continue with the edits and get the letter to the clerk on Friday. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian reinstated

Members voted to allow Brian rejoin CEAC. He was on a leave to work on the Energy Pathways Study.

Subcommittee Updates

Franchise Subcommittee

The Franchise Subcommittee may be sending a letter to CEAC for the May meeting.

Potential future agenda items

None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm