

CEAC Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2014

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Pat Mulloy, Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Brian Ross, James Nash, Meleah Houseknecht, Lisa Daniels, Eduardo Cardenas, Roxxanne O'Brien, Alexis Troschinetz,

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback

Absences: Jamison Tessneer, Marty Broan, Shalini Gupta, Sam Grant, Michelle Stockness, Jennifer Ringold, Michelle Schroeder

Approval of Agenda and June minutes:

Agenda and minutes approved.

City Staff and Member Announcements

1. The MN Public Utility Commissions took action on Community Solar Gardens (CSG) recently. There are still a few details to be worked on with some stakeholders, including the City. New CSG may begin coming online in the spring.
2. On August 1, the City Council passed a resolution asking the Vikings and Stadium Authority to include bird-safe glass in the construction of the stadium, which is not currently part of the designs.
3. The Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) wants all board and commission members to participate in a survey. This survey will help the city understand the diversity of current boards and commissions, as part of an effort to make them more closely match the city's demographics. Gayle will be re-sending the survey to all CEAC members.
4. August is Choose to Reuse month. More info here: <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/choose-to-reuse>
5. The Hennepin County mobile recycling truck will be parked at 9th and Marquette this summer to provide a place for people to sit and to recycle and compost their lunch and other waste.
6. Six more locations will be available for organic waste drop-off in Minneapolis parks this fall. More information is here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/organics/>

HECE Committee updates

1. **Accessory Dwelling Units.** In June Council Member Lisa Bender introduced a Zoning Code Text Amendments that would allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in residential areas. ADUs are smaller dwellings that are attached to or on the same property as existing homes. ADUs are currently allowed with a conditional use permit in the North Phillips Overlay District, but they are not allowed in the rest of Minneapolis. Many cities across the country allow ADUs, including Seattle, Portland, and Austin. To explore the idea of allowing ADUs in Minneapolis, Planning (CPED) staff will host four open houses in August and September. Open houses will be held: Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 10:30am-12:30pm at the Hosmer Community Library, 347 E 36th Street; Wednesday, August 27, 2014, 5:00– 7:00pm at Eastside Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd St NE; Tuesday, September 16, 2014 from 5:00 – 7:00pm at the North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N; and Wednesday, September 17, 2014 5:00 – 7:00pm at Kenwood Community Center, 2101 W Franklin Ave.

2. **Trees for Businesses.** Minneapolis businesses that pay pollution control fees and have enough space may be eligible for free trees. Our urban forest has been hard hit with storms, pests and diseases. Because of the emerald ash borer pest alone we will likely lose nearly 200,000 ash trees in Minneapolis, so we need to plant as many new trees as we can. One of the best options to replant trees is on private land and the City is planting trees on commercial properties for free. Qualifying businesses must maintain and water the tree. Learn more here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/environment/green/index.htm>
3. **Farmstand Proposal.** This week CM Gordon's proposed amendments to reduce regulations on farmstands operating at community gardens, market gardens, and urban farms got a hearing at the Planning Commission. The Commission recommended that the City Council approve the amendment as proposed, with one additional change that would allow farmstands to keep one sign up through the entire growing season, rather than requiring operators take the signs down whenever they were not in operation as I proposed. The amendment already proposes eliminating the current requirement to obtain a Temporary Use Permit; increasing from 15 to 75 the number of days they can operate per year, and allowing the sale of products from other farms and gardens which are run by the same producer. You can read the staff report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-129260.pdf>
4. **Residents can sponsor neighborhood air quality samples** The City of Minneapolis is performing an air quality study, and residents have asked for more air sampling canisters in their neighborhoods. More canisters are now available for the air sample collection event Aug. 25-28. Minneapolis neighborhood and business organizations or residents can sponsor a canister for the City's contract rate of \$165.50 per event.

The August air collection event is the fourth air sampling of eight that will provide data for the City's two-year neighborhood air quality study.

For each air collection event, approximately 120 air collection canisters are placed citywide on commercial, residential, City and Park Board properties for 72 hours. Any sponsored canisters would add to the total of samples. The samples will be analyzed for 72 air pollutants that can potentially affect health. Results of the study will help the City examine air quality in Minneapolis and how to improve air quality through the Green Business Matching Grant Program.

Supplies are limited. Sign up by Aug. 15 for the Aug. 25-28 sampling. A volunteer must be responsible for the canister. For more information or to request a canister, email EnvironmentalServicesInfo@minneapolismn.gov or call 612-673-3023.

Roxanne expressed interest in learning more and others agreed. Staff will look at the possibility of a speaker at the September meeting.

5. **Safely get rid of your household hazardous wastes.** You can safely dispose of unwanted garden and household hazardous wastes during a series of community collection events. All sites will be open to the public 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday.
 - a. Aug. 7-9 South High School, 3131 19th Ave. S. (enter off 21st Avenue South)
 - b. Aug. 21-23 340 27th Ave. NE
 - c. Oct. 9-11 Minneapolis Public Works Snelling facility, 3607 E. 44th St.

For a list of materials accepted and not accepted, see www.hennepin.us/collectionevents or call Hennepin County Public Works Environmental Services at 612-348-3777.

- 6. Hearings on Southwest Light Rail.** There are two public hearings coming up for people to comment on the revised Southwest Light Rail Transit project. Following these hearings, the Minneapolis City Council will vote on municipal consent for the project. Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority/Metropolitan Council will hold a Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall. The City Council will hold a Public Hearing at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, City Hall, Room 317, 350 South 5th Street. The hearings are opportunities for the public to comment on the Southwest light-rail line, as recommended by the Metropolitan Council, including plans that were revised as a result of a tentative agreement between the City of Minneapolis and the Metropolitan Council. Details on the tentative agreement and be found here:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@mayor/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-127882.pdf>

Written comments will be accepted through Tuesday, August 19 and can be submitted to councilcomment@minneapolismn.gov or mailed to T&PW Committee Coordinator, Room 304 City Hall, 350 S 5th St, Minneapolis, 55415.

Action on draft City Council Fossil Fuels Divestment Resolution

Ross reviewed the draft fossil fuels divestment resolution (attachment 2 from August agenda). The City does not currently have any funds invested in fossil fuel companies; 25 cities including San Fran, Seattle, Portland, Boulder and Madison have already divested. Rather than forward the whole resolution to the Council, CEAC decided to adopt and forward to the City Council, a statement reading "Community Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) supports adoption of a strong City Council resolution similar to the draft reviewed at the August 5, 2014 CEAC meeting committing to continued community divestment from fossil fuel companies".

The statement was passed unanimously, with James Nash abstaining.

CEAC 2014-2015 Membership Application Process

Gayle gave an overview of the CEAC application and appointment process. All CEAC slots are open for application. Existing members must reapply if they wish to continue to serve. Gayle asked that anyone not seeking reappointment contact her.

The group discussed how they might engage in recruitment for vacancies. Eduardo suggested that CEAC members suggest changes to CEAC structure to designate a position or positions for community organizers. Gayle explained that this would require action by the Council, since they establish the roles designated as part of CEAC. The group can organize to recruit specific individuals, and that the roles currently defined as part of CEAC membership have historically been interpreted broadly. This will be a continued topic at the September meeting.

Committee Updates and Breakouts

Climate & Air

The subcommittee helped organize a recent meeting about LED streetlights with CM Gordon and city staff.

Less Waste

None.

Water

Members are setting up a meeting with city staff in Public Works to talk about reviewing the existing Sustainability Indicators related to stormwater and water quality.

Utility Franchise

None.

EJ Subcommittee

None.

September 11th meeting items

- Community Solar Gardens – possibly planning an event hosted by CEAC
- CEAC appointments process and recruiting
- Minneapolis Air Quality Study Update

There was an interest in learning more about City organics collection at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned 4:45.