

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Thursday September 10, 2015 3:30-5:30

Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Anna Abruzzese, Adam Arvidson, Dylan Bradford Kesti, Brian Ross, Alejandro Ojeda, Jen Kader, Tony Hainault, Andrew Murray, Darrell Gerber, Meleah Houseknecht, Lisa Daniels, James Nash

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Kelly Muellman, Brendon Slotterback, Mike Luke

Absences: Allan Campbell, Eduardo Cardenas, Roxxanne OBrien, Michelle Stockness

1) Approval of September Agenda and August Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)

Anna Abruzzese called the meeting to order at 3:38pm. CEAC unanimously approved the September agenda and August meeting minutes

2) Draft Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan Comments (Comp Plan Task Force – Brian Ross)

Brian Ross reviewed CEAC's discussion from August and gave an overview of the draft comment letter in which CEAC is putting forward a set of principles, rather than specific recommendations – this is reflected in the first page of the comment letter. Brian reviewed the main principles, as well as recommendations on CEAC's role in the Comp Plan process and structure of community participation in Comp Plan's committees.

CEAC members were generally in favor of the comments, and provided the following edits to the letter:

- The Task-Force themes on page 1 should be tied to/referenced back to under recommendation #3 on page 2;
- The letter should be addressed to staff (as it is currently) but also should copy Council, specifically Council Member Gordon (Chair, Health, Environment and Community Engagement), CM Bender (Chair, Zoning & Planning) and CM Goodman (Chair, Community Development & Regulatory Services)
- Change to #4, page 2: Articulate CEAC's concerns regarding technical experts synthesizing Task Force input and making policy interpretations, which should involve community representatives, but let Community Planning & Economic Development struggle with identifying the solution.
- Change to #3, page 2: Task Forces should include technical experts from variety of fields. Give example (e.g., stormwater).
- Change to first paragraph or #2, page 2: Across all avenues, CEAC may provide both technical expertise and community representation. Be careful not to imply that CEAC is not the only community representation.
- Ask that CEAC continue to be updated as process moves forward (last paragraph)

Brian will work on edits. Darrell moved to approve the letter with the understanding that the changes would be made as discussed. This was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3) Xcel's Draft Integrated Resource Plan: City draft comments

Brendon Slotterback provided CEAC with an update on Xcel's draft Integrated Resource Plan (2016-2030), which describes how the utility will meet customers' needs (supply & demand-side resources). It is in the City's interest to comment on this Plan because it will impact the City's Climate Action and Clean Energy Partnership goals. At this time the City is not requesting an action from CEAC, but if CEAC members want to engage as individuals they can comment as outlined below. The City will be submitting its comments for approval by City Council Intergovernmental Government Relations Committee on Sept 17. Brendon will circulate comments to CEAC when they are available.

To get the plan go to Xcel's website (<http://www.xcelenergy.com/>) and search for Minnesota Integrated Resource Plan. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Reply-Comment-Period is open now. People can react to the Plan and original Comments. Comments for the reply round are due Oct 2. Go to <http://mn.gov/puc/> and

click the “Speak Up” link. Anyone can submit a plan – a group of nonprofit organizations submitted their own plan for Xcel.

CEAC thanked Brendon for his presentation and made two suggestions. First, the City should consider engaging the Energy Vision Advisory Committee on these efforts. Second, CEAC should charge the City to push Xcel on the first comment (more than 1.5% increase) as part of the Clean Energy Partnership commitment.

4) Working Group Breakouts

Anna suggested skipping working group breakouts due to running over time from the previous agenda item. Tony moved to skip working group breakouts and it the motion was seconded by Dylan. The motion passed unanimously.

5) City Staff and Member Announcements

- Shalini Gupta has resigned from CEAC. This position is now open to be filled. There are now two vacancies for the remainder of the 2015-2016 term: a citizen rep appointed by Mayor, and an environmental advocacy group member appointed by the City Council. Applications are under Boards & Commissions (minneapolis.gov/boards/). Applications will be accepted through mid-October. Please reach out to people you know or send tips to Gayle on recruiting new members.
- Saturday October 10th Meet Minneapolis is hosting a free Minneapolis Energy Fair 9:30am-12:30pm at the Convention Center. CEAC is encouraged to attend and help promote the event.
- The City is buying-down a limited number of Home Energy Squad visits with co-pays to \$0 for income-qualified households and offering no-interest financing (no income limits) through 2015.
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The following updates were available for participants to read:

- City tests new smartphone app that lets drivers pay for on-street parking time without going to a meter or pay station. Go to www.mplsarking.com/
- City Council passed a resolution declaring Minneapolis a pollinator-friendly community and encouraging residents and businesses to adopt pollinator-friendly practices.
- City Council approved three more commercial properties using Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program financing for energy improvements and solar.
- City Council approved introductions of Carry out bags in retail establishments ordinance, given its first reading, and referred to the Health, Environment & Community Engagement Committee.

Tony passed out Hennepin County’s Choose to Reuse coupons, good through October. He also mentioned that Hennepin County did research on stagnant levels of recycling – found that there was not uniform signage. They have developed stickers for people to label containers for specific types of recycling (trash, recycling, organics) and for different rooms (bathroom, kitchen, etc.) You can request these decals for free from Hennepin County or City’s Public Works.

6) Next meeting Thursday October 8, 3:30-5:30pm meeting items and adjourn

Future topics:

- MPRB master plans for all neighborhood parks
- Clean Energy Partnership & EVAC update
- Update on organics collection roll-out
- Distribution networks – PUC starting a docket in September on this with workshops
- Tutorial on how to find dockets on the PUC’s website
- Make sure topics and presentations are tied to actions CEAC can take
- Sustainability conferences – 2015 Sustainability Management Conference (August 2015), AASHE (Oct 25-28), and USDN (Oct 24-29)

Adam moved to adjourn the meeting, Tony seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm on the nose.