

CEAC Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2013

Attendance: Michelle Schroeder, Darrell Gerber, Marty Broan, Sarah Sponheim, Annette Rondano, Pat Mulloy, Shalini Gupta, Alexis Troschinetz, Meleah Houseknecht, Kevin Bengtson, Roxxanne O'Brien, Tony Hainault, Jamison Tessneer, Diane Daun, Lisa Daniels

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback, Robin Garwood, Will Dolezal, Renee Van Siclen, Mike Luke, Jennifer Ringold

Absences: Brian Ross, Ross Abbey, Michelle Stockness

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Agenda approved and January meeting minutes approved.

Introductions (Prest)

Gayle introduced Jennifer Ringold from the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) as a new representative to CEAC. Jennifer is in the Planning Department at the MPRB. She is also a co-lead on the sustainability initiative, with a focus on energy efficiency. CEAC members introduced themselves.

Announcements

1. CEAC has a new name – Community Environmental Advisory Commission. The name change will be approved by the City Council on Friday.
2. The Building Energy Benchmarking & Disclosure Ordinance passed RE&E on January 28th. It will go to the full City Council this week. The first reporting deadline will be for public buildings on June 1st. A report with the results will also be issued later in 2013.
3. Emerald Ash Borer was discovered at Lakewood Cemetery recently. This could imply that it is present in a lot of other areas in the City. Ash trees are the third most common type of tree in Minneapolis. There will be a symposium on February 12th in Hopkins on how to deal with Emerald Ash Borer. Sarah will send a link to interested individuals.
4. Al Gore is in town at the Westminister Town Hall Forum this week to talk about his new book.
5. The news website MinnPost is hosting a Climate Adaptation Forum on February 25th. J. Drake Hamilton, Lee Frelich, and Mark Seeley will be on the panel.
6. The City Council's Regulatory Energy and Environment Committee received an update on the progress of the Food Council from members and staff.
7. On Valentine's Day the Health Legacy Coalition is holding a lobby day at the Minnesota Legislature to get chemicals out of children's products. Darrell will send details to interested individuals.
8. Award nominations are open for Environmental Initiative Awards. Nominations are due March 1st. You can self-nominate, and nominations are being accepted at www.environmental-initiative.org.
9. On February 19th Environment MN is hosting a Green Ideas and Ham event on Minnesota-made solar. 8 – 9:30 am at the Red Stag Supper Club.
10. Governor Dayton will be talking about climate change at 7 pm in his state-of-state speech tonight.
11. The next Climate Action Plan Steering Committee meeting will be held on February 15th at 2 pm at Minneapolis Central Library. The EJ Working Group has adopted recommendations which will be reviewed by the Steering Committee for incorporation into the final document.

12. Transition Longfellow is showing a movie about Boulder's discussion of a municipal utility on Friday, February 15th. Annette will send details out to individuals who are interested.

Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Gayle gave an introduction on the history of the process to select the Chair and Vice Chair. Last year, the selection was by nomination with voice voting, but it could take place via ballot. The Chair is responsible for facilitating CEAC meetings, keeping track of time, writing an end-of-year summary, and reviewing the agenda prior to the meetings with staff. The Vice Chair is responsible for assuming these duties in the Chair's absence, and collaborating on agenda setting.

Chair

Jamison nominated Sarah Sponheim for chair, Annette seconded the nomination. Annette nominated Pat, but Pat said he did not want the position. The group decided on a voice vote to determine the chair and vice chair. The vote was unanimous to elect Sarah as chair.

Vice Chair

Marty Broan nominated Michelle Schroeder as vice chair, Annette seconded the nomination. Michelle said she is not interested, but might be next year. Michelle nominated Darrell, and Pat seconded. Sarah called the vote, and the group voted unanimously for Darrell.

2013 Meeting Calendar

A proposal was made to move the meeting time to 2:30 pm rather than 3 to accommodate child care issues. Darrell discussed the proposal to move the meeting time to 2:30 instead of 3 pm on the first Wednesdays. Alexis said she preferred the second Wednesday. Tony proposed moving the meeting to the third Wednesday of each month. Shalini proposed 2-4 pm.

Marty moved to move the meeting time to 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month. Seconded by Sarah. The vote was unanimous. The new date and time will start with the March meeting.

Legislative Update

1. Darrell – The MN legislature operates on a two-year cycle, and the first year is always focused on passing a budget. The second year is a shorter session, due to the election year and is typically focused on policy. We are currently in the first year of the cycle. The Governor's budget has come out, but no specific bill has been introduced. The agency budgets are not out yet. Some bills on a variety of topics should come out in the next few weeks.
2. Dayton's budget is better on the environment than a governor's budget has been in a really long time. Increases the percentage that goes to the environment from the general fund. Historically, the amount runs about 1% of the total, but in the last few years it has been well below that. This budget doesn't get it back up to historical levels, but increases it from previous years.
3. Legacy amendment – recommendations have come out of the Advisory Councils for what they say the State should fund. The recommendations are still being reviewed by environmental organizations.
4. The Minnesota Environmental Partnership is backing a Clean Water Bill. This bill would make plans that are required by the Clean Water Act to identify how we take a water

body from dirty to clean. Under the current approach, the plans don't do a good job of this. This bill would prioritize funding for non-point-source pollution clean up.

5. There is some discussion of a Solar Energy Standard. Some groups are calling for 10% of energy in the state to be produced by solar energy by 2030. This would be in addition to the current renewable energy standard, not a portion of it.
6. The Governor's budget and some potential bills would increase funding for transit.
7. Clean Water Action is supporting a number of efforts:
 - a. Expanding the ban on BPA into a bigger chunk of children's products.
 - b. Banning formaldehyde in products that children use, like mattresses.
 - c. Requiring manufacturers to disclose when they use chemicals in children's products that are on a list of chemicals of concern.
8. The Sierra Club is supporting a number of efforts:
 - a. Expanding transit funding
 - b. Getting a 10% solar energy standard.
 - c. Some action on sulfide mining and additional restrictions.
 - d. Rebalancing the oversight of ATV use on public lands. Looking at how their use is spreading invasive species.
9. Conservation MN is supporting a number of efforts:
 - a. A bottle bill to give a refund on recycling bottles.
 - b. Expanding legacy funds.
10. MCEA is supporting a number of efforts:
 - a. Expansion of transit funding
 - b. Funding for the Environmental Quality Board which has had reduced funding and staffing in recent years.
11. Agencies:
 - a. In the past, state agencies have set a goal of 150 days to speed up permitting. The next step is to divide that 150 day goal into tiers and do some permits even faster. Many environmental groups think this is a bad idea.
 - b. A wetlands Bill may be introduced.
 - c. A drainage bill may be introduced that has broad consensus. May deal with urban and agriculture drainage.
 - d. The MPCA is proposing a product stewardship bill dealing with paint and solid waste management plans and revamping the e-waste program.
 - e. An Agriculture Water Quality bill may be coming from Dept. of Agriculture that will try to get voluntary programs on the ground more frequently.
 - f. Asian Carp. The DNR will put in a funding request for barriers they want to put in around lock and dams. These would be bubble barriers. This proposal has received a chilly reception at the legislature. The Army Corps won't permit electrical barriers and bubble barriers have never been tested and could have low effectiveness at stopping fish.
 - g. Groundwater. A bill would use bonding money to expand test well sites to get a good picture of what is happening to our groundwater. Currently, there are not nearly enough wells to do adequate testing.
 - h. There could be a ban proposed on coal-tar based sealants.
 - i. There may be some energy bills that aren't finalized yet.
 - j. Some recycling organizations want to take a look at recycling programs statewide and propose legislation.
 - k. Some groups are pushing for a statewide moratorium until a general EIS can be completed on frac sand mining.

- I. There could be a distributed generation bill on either a standard or carve out, or on rate structure. The Dept. of Commerce has had a number of workshops on distributed generation.
- m. Rep. Wagenius is now the energy chair, and she is interested in energy efficiency.

Jennifer Ringold will forward the Park Board's legislative agenda to the group.

A priority for Hennepin County to get the Environmental Response Fund reactivated. It funds clean-up efforts across the County at brownfield sites. The fund expired last year and the legislature did not reauthorize it, meaning the funds are just about gone. Rep. Loeffler is House sponsor and Dziedzic is the Senate sponsor. The bill number is SF13.

Approval of Franchise Subcommittee Outreach Plan

Pat Mulloy outlined the draft outreach plan. The handout outlines CEAC recommendations on an outreach plan, and includes developing a one-page document on city sustainability goals, holding public meetings, and potentially meeting with neighborhood organizations, to ask people for their feedback on the general goals and goals for franchise agreement.

There was some discussion of what the purpose of the outreach is – whether it is intended to educate people or to encourage advocacy. Pat said it was to clarify to people what the franchise agreement actually is. Robin said the Council work group wants help with getting feedback on how to get sustainability outcomes into the franchise agreement.

Darrell clarified that this is not CEAC's outreach plan, this is just CEAC's recommendation to the City Council workgroup on how to do outreach.

Jamison made a motion to approve the recommendations, Michelle Schroeder seconded.

Shalini pointed out that community members will need some visualization on what this means, not just text. She suggested that staff should work with the City's Neighborhood Community Relations Dept to get this information into other languages and out to people who aren't represented by the neighborhood organizations.

The following changes to the outreach plan were proposed:

- #2 under Recommendations: Use the phrase "City should use public notices"
- #4 under Recommendations: add "City Council monthly outreach meetings and e-newsletters" to the list of possible avenues for outreach.
- #1 under Recommendations: Language about translating documents into English, Spanish, Somali should be added
- #1b under Recommendations: A visual image of what a franchise agreement is needs to be added.
- #5 under Recommendations: The phrase "and the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department in order to ensure a diverse set of community partners are reached". Should be added after Neighborhood Associations.

Pat moved those recommendations, Shalini seconded.

All ayes, no nays, Kevin Bengtson abstained from the vote.

Subcommittee Updates

Subcommittee leaders gave summaries of all subcommittees. Darrell passed around a sheet to sign up for subcommittees.

- **Less Waste** – this subcommittee focuses on reducing waste and increasing recycling. The group is currently working on:
 - Reducing the use of single-use bags.
 - Construction and demolition waste reduction initiatives.
 - Initiatives or efforts to establish a thriving reuse or salvage center or reuse businesses.
 - Researching initiatives in cities that have city-wide organics recycling.
- **Water** – recent work has included:
 - The Asian Carp issue. The group sent CEAC a letter to sign about lockage closures.
 - Setting up a tour of drinking water and wastewater facilities.
 - Worked with city staff on state-required documents that city submits regarding surface water plans.
 - Updates to water sustainability indicators.
- **Air & Climate** – recent work includes:
 - Providing input on the climate-related sustainability indicators.
 - Organized a tour to the Sioux community to see improvements there.
 - Catch-all for air quality and climate issues.
 - Reviewed the Climate Action Plan and the City's legislative agenda.
 - Made a recommendation on recreational fires.
 - Supported the energy disclosure policy through a letter to the editor.
 - Some members served on the Climate Action Plan working groups and steering committee.
 - Future issues could include cleaning up cigarette butts in downtown and green building initiatives.
- **Utility Franchise** – The group was formed to look at and advise the city on how to incorporate sustainability initiatives into the City's franchise agreements: utilities, cable and bus benches.
- **Neighborhood Environmental Network (NEN)** – This group grew from a need to connect communities and neighborhoods within Minneapolis to learn about positive efforts in environment and sustainability, but also to learn about city's efforts and grants opportunities. NEN created an online network of environment committee chairs and neighborhood organization chairs. People who opened the emails were already getting the information from another source. The group is dormant and will probably no longer be active.

Darrell suggested that the group continue the discussion on subcommittees and signing up for them at the next meeting as time ran out.

Future meeting agenda items

Environmental Justice Atlas - March

Sustainability Indicators - April

Regional Energy Indicators - May

Letter on brownfield legislation

Humphrey Institute Capstone project on climate adaptation - April

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