

CEAC Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2013

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Kevin Bengtson, Marty Broan, Lisa Daniels, Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Meleah Houseknecht, Pat Mulloy, Roxxanne O'Brien, Jennifer Ringold, Annette Rondano, Brian Ross, Michelle Schroeder, Sarah Sponheim, Jamison Tessneer, Alexis Troschinetz

Others in Attendance: Mike Bull, Karlie Cole, Will Dolezal, Robin Garwood, Anders Imboden

Absences: Diane Daun, Shalini Gupta, Michelle Stockness

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Chair Sarah Sponheim called the meeting to order at 5:01. Minutes were approved unanimously. April agenda was revised to add item to discuss videotaping of meetings as a last agenda item.

Announcements

1. Sarah proposed a new December meeting time: Wed Dec 4 3:00-5:00. This date was proposed so that CEAC doesn't lose two meetings towards the end of the year. The new meeting date was approved unanimously. November meeting and previously scheduled later December meeting are cancelled.
2. Tony passed out an announcement about Green Partners Environmental Education Program grants. Proposals are due May 17th.
3. Jamison proposed a social gathering for CEAC members after the next meeting at Crooked Pint. There was some discussion of conflicting events, but some members may still go.
4. Early bird registration for the Neighborhoods USA conference ends Friday April 26th. This is a conference for neighborhood organizations nation-wide. The conference starts May 22nd and is being held in Minneapolis.
5. Regular CEAC meeting dates have been posted on the Sustaining Communities Twin Cities website. This website also has a calendar for sustainability events in the Twin Cities. A card with the website information was handed out.
6. Some Minneapolis City Council Ward Conventions are happening this weekend including Ward 10 and Ward 12
7. Marty took a field trip to the single-sort recycling facility today. It's the second largest in the country. The operators reported experiencing a 65% increase in recycling from the customers who are using the new single-sort recycling bins.
8. An ordinance change to allow bee hives on building roofs has passed the City Council. The ordinance changes also reduced fees - the second and subsequent years someone has a hive, they no longer have to pay a permit fee.
9. The changes to the recreational fire ordinance that CEAC worked on last year are coming to public hearing May 1st at PSCRH committee.
10. The Minnesota House Omnibus Transportation bill that provides more funding for transit is on the verge of passage, so please contact your representative to support it. If the bill doesn't pass, the effect will be a reduction in transit funding. House Bill #1444.
11. Met Council is having listening sessions about their regional planning process to develop ThriveMSP 2040. You can find information about sessions on their website. The Met Council might establish a role in encouraging cities to address climate change through regional and comprehensive plans. The Met Council is able to affect nearly everything that is in the climate action plan and other city plans.
12. Xcel Energy just released their 2012 environmental scorecard which includes carbon dioxide emissions and emissions rate per MWh. Both have dropped. The full corporate responsibility report will be formerly released in June of 2013. Kevin passed out copies of the emissions information.
13. On April 25 at 11:30 am at City Hall in Room 333 the University of Minnesota Law Policy Clinic will present on solar gardens research a group of law students has been working on. This

research is intended to help the City be more informed about solar gardens opportunities and potential legislative changes.

Climate Action Plan Update

Brendon gave an update on the Climate Action Plan. The Steering Committee met for the last time on April 8th and gave staff permission to make final edits and bring the plan to the City Council. Sarah has drafted a letter that CEAC can send to the City Council supporting adoption of the Climate Action Plan.

Shalini sent an email and wanted to add a sentence that reads “We applaud the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan for breaking new ground in its inclusion of environmental justice expertise in the plan's development.” Ross took that sentence as a friendly amendment to include in the letter. A number of other edits were suggested for the letter, which Sarah agreed to incorporate. The group moved to direct Sarah to make changes to the document and send it to the City Council. The motion was seconded and passed.

Sustainability Indicators

Gayle gave an introduction to the 2013 Sustainability Indicators Report. Staff has completed the regular annual update of data on all indicators and developed a summary handout. Anders gave an update on some of the specific indicators and an overview of the website. Staff may be beginning the process to revise the targets later in 2013.

Subcommittee Updates

1. Less Waste (Sponheim) – The subcommittee is waiting for a report on issues around organics collection citywide. It may be available next week. The subcommittee is looking at whether it would be possible for the City to require recycling when a demolition permit is pulled.
2. Water (Gerber) – The subcommittee has a new meeting date – third Thursdays at Wilde Roast Café 8-9 am. The subcommittee will start to take a look at the Sustainability Indicators on water. The group wants to organize tours of wastewater and water treatment plants.
3. Air & Climate (Abbey) – Regular meeting time: second Thursday at 4 pm at Common Roots. The group talked about the Climate Action Plan, which includes many strategies that the subcommittee could work on. Talked about Environmental Justice issues and how the group could use the lessons learned from the Climate Action Plan process.
4. Utility Franchise (Schroeder) – The subcommittee sent a letter approved by CEAC supporting the City's funding a study on future energy pathways. CM Glidden met with the subcommittee to discuss options and barriers to advancing the City's goals around energy. There are a number of bills at the legislature that would give the City more leverage in negotiating the franchise agreements. The Subcommittee has drafted a letter to ask the City to intervene with the PUC to get more data on electricity reliability. The letter also asks the City to designate funds to monitor activity at the PUC to look out for the City's best interest. There was some conversation about at what scale Xcel could provide data. A few changes to the letter were discussed. The subcommittee will revise the letter, send it out for more comments and then do an online vote. There was a motion to support the concept and ask the subcommittee to produce a revised letter. That motion passed with Kevin Bengston abstaining.
5. The Buildings & Energy subcommittee did not form, and Marty will join the Air & Climate subcommittee.

Discussion on video and audio taping CEAC meetings

Roxanne offered to bring her own camera and record meetings to put them on YouTube. There was discussion about whether people would watch the video and whether recording the meetings would limit the candor of individuals. There was a motion to let Roxanne record meetings and post them. Discussion clarified that she will be posting them as herself, not as CEAC. Unanimously approved.

Future meeting agenda items

Regional Energy Indicators and Humphrey Institute Capstone project on climate adaptation - May

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

**CEAC Subcommittees
May 22, 2013**

| | Chair | Members | Typical meeting times | 2013 ideas |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|
| Less Waste | Sarah | Jamison, Annette, Diane, Tony, Ross | 2:00-3:00 before CEAC meeting | Construction debris Organics |
| Water | Darrell | Michelle Stockness, Meleah, Sarah | 3 rd Thursday 8:00-9:00 am Wilde Roast | |
| Air Climate | Ross | Michelle Schroeder, Meleah, Sarah, Lisa, Pat, Shalini, Marty, Alexis, Kevin, Tony | 2 nd Thursday 4:00 Common Roots | Climate Action Plan Env Justice Energy Efficiency Renewables |
| Utility Franchise | Michelle Schroeder | Brian, Pat, Meleah, Sarah, Lisa, Shalini | | |
| Outreach | Annette | | | |