

CEAC Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2014

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Shalini Gupta, Alexis Troschinetz, Pat Mulloy, Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Eduardo Cardenas, Michelle Schroeder, Roxxanne O'Brien, Meleah Houseknecht, Sam Grant

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Julia Eagles, Stephanie Zawistowski, Al Swintek, Nick Martin

Absences: Jamison Tessneer, Jennifer Ringold, Brian Ross, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Stockness, James Nash, Marty Broan

Approval of Agenda and April minutes:

Pat moved, Ross seconded approval of the agenda. Agenda was approved. Pat moved, Ross seconded approval of the April minutes. Discussion: Remove Alexis Troschinetz from attendance, add Julia Eagles to others in attendance, add % to 80 in announcement #1. April minutes were approved.

City Staff and Member Announcements

1. Stephanie Zawistowski is Mayor Hodges' new Sustainability Policy Aide, started just 2 ½ weeks ago, excited to get connected with CEAC and observe what we're working on.
2. Environmentally acceptable packaging public hearing will take place at Health, Environment and Community Engagement on Monday, May 12th at 1:30 p.m.
3. Mobile Grocery Store public hearing will take place at Community Development and Regulatory Services on Tuesday, May 13th at 1:30 p.m.
4. The long-term carbon reduction goal to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 80% or more by 2050, from 2006 levels, passed the City Council on April 25th.
5. Bike Plan Public Meeting (Climate Action Plan strategy related to on-street bicycle facilities) today (Thursday, May 8th) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Central Library.
<http://www.minneapolis.gov/bicycles/index.htm>
6. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Annual Report- comments to City by June 17th. Water subcommittee may want to look into submitting comments.
7. 36 new EV charging stations installed at Parking Ramps A, B and C in Downtown. WCCO article on the topic: <http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/05/07/mpis-unveils-parking-ramp-charging-stations/>
8. Ross shared a legislative update: Energy omnibus bill has passed through committee, includes provisions under which Xcel and other IOUs will come up with a special EV charging rate for residential customers, and potentially also for commercial and residential customers.
9. Pat would like to have CEAC send a letter to the City Council supporting the work that city staff, the Mayor and Council members are doing on racial equity, including the racial equity plan. In response to discussion at City Council Committee of the Whole meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IliKdPo9rrc>
10. It's been 14 months since Pat brought up the issue of public funding for a sports stadium that will host a team that uses a racial slur as its mascot. Suggest changing the name of the Washington team to Wasichu.
11. Hennepin County is hosting public hearings on the Bottineau Transitway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on May 8, 13 and 14. For more information visit: www.bottineautransitway.org.

12. Monday is the last day to register for the Environmental Initiative Awards Dinner, which takes place on Thursday, May 22nd at Nicollet Island Pavilion.
13. Mississippi River Forum Workshop on Friday, May 30th from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Science Museum of Minnesota. <http://www.nps.gov/miss/naturescience/riverforum.htm>
14. 2 recent reports were released: Health Equity report by the MN Department of Health (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/healthequity/>), recognized structural racism as a cause of the disparities that exist around health in our state. University of Minnesota just came out with a report on the distributive impact of air pollution: http://personal.ce.umn.edu/~marshall/NO2_white_nonwhite.php
15. Tony suggested getting someone from the MN Depart of Health to present on the health equity report.
16. Clean Water Action movie night will be on June 11th, showing the movie Elemental, at Parkway Theatre.
17. Franchise subcommittee update: Will be writing a letter on behalf of CEAC to submit to the City Council, recommend incorporating the Energy Pathways Study into the Comprehensive Plan, a 2-year franchise agreement, metrics related to the partnership agreement. Xcel will be responding to the city's carbon reduction goals in its next Integrated Resource Plan.

How and What the City Tracks to See if it is meeting its Environmental Goals

Gayle gave a review presentation on the Sustainability Indicators and CEAC's previous role in shaping the indicators, and timeline for future engagement. Sustainability Indicators website: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/indicators>

The City of Minneapolis new Vision, Values, Goals and Strategic Directions have been approved by the City Council and were distributed to the group. The City will now be developing new community indicators to measure progress. Details are still being worked out but it looks like the City Council would adopt the indicators later this year. CEAC historically has been very involved in designing the sustainability indicators and may want to once again make recommendations on these community indicators. More info on strategic goals: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/citygoals/index.html>.

The group discussed indicators that may need to be revisited: Stormwater, solid waste, geographic data for air quality, etc. There are often issues/challenges with the data when the targets are initially set, but the process requires the City to look at the data. The end targets for a number of these goals are 2014 or 2015, staff suggestion is to look at 10-year or longer goals. Reviewing the Sustainability Indicator targets- First vs. second-tier targets, what is the purpose of multiple targets? Feedback from CEAC on targets- whether we like them, how should they move or evolve, send general recommendation to staff on that without setting specific numbers.

Eduardo suggested getting more information on the status and source for each of the indicators, what data is currently available and where are the gaps in terms of data? Are there opportunities to request access to data from other institutions? The last time we looked at the Indicators, we reviewed availability of data and how goals can be measured.

Longitudinal data is really valuable, particularly to the City and policy-makers. How to frame the indicators in a way that will involve collecting longitudinal data, are not just one-off goals. In order to be used for decision-making and management, measuring that performance over time will be important. This conversation may lead well into the agenda for CEAC for the remaining year and topics for deeper work in 2015. Could do a process of reviewing existing indicators, identifying gaps and other topics to cover, revisiting the targets that may need updating,

focusing on the measure CEAC is most interested in working on, and reviewing available data/data needs. Recommend that this be a major topic for the subcommittees before the next meeting; see this as an opportunity to do some brainstorming and goal-setting for CEAC's work. What would motivate CEAC members and subcommittees for the next year?

Other issues CEAC would like to discuss: Waste issues, lots going on related to that currently (organics collection, environmentally-acceptable packaging, plastic bag ban, etc.). Where CEAC's efforts would be best directed in this realm? Ross supports having someone come in and present on the MDH Health Equity report and/or the University of MN air quality report, environmental literacy.

Meleah suggests having a more in-depth conversation about the Comprehensive Plan at a meeting soon. It was also suggested to have a presentation by Xcel on the Integrated Resource Plan at a future meeting.

Alexis asked for interest in Less Waste Committee: Tony, Eduardo, Meleah and Darrell are all interested

Subcommittee Breakout Time and Adjournment: Tony moved, Alexis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.