

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting
Thursday March 12, 2015 3:00-5:00 p.m. City Hall (350 S 5th Street) Room 132

Minutes

Attendance: Dylan Bradford Kesti, Anna Abruzzese, Andrew Murray, Alejandro Ojeda Saint-Martin, Allan Campbell, Jen Kader, Shalini Gupta, Roxxanne O'Brien, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Stockness, Darrell Gerber, Meleah Houseknecht, James Nash, Brian Ross

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback

Absences: Martha Ockenfels-Martinez, Eduardo Cardenas, Tony Hainault, Adam Arvidson

1) Oath signature.

- a. Gayle handed out the oath that is required by state law for all members of advisory committees. All CEAC members are required to sign the oath. If you have questions, please ask Gayle.

2) City Staff and Member Announcements.

- a. The City is offering discounted rain barrels and compost bins. Go to the Recycling Association of Minnesota website to sign up.
- b. City Trees program. The City buys down the cost of trees for private land to \$25. This year the City has 1,300 trees. Three wards with low participation were targeted first for purchase. Go to treetrust.org for more information.
- c. The City Council will review a fossil fuel divestment resolution on March 20th. The City does not currently have any investments in fossil fuel companies, but the resolution is intended to signal to other organizations that they should divest.
- d. The Community Connections Conference is on March 21st from 9 to 3 pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This conference is intended to connect neighborhood organizations and other interested stakeholders.
- e. One Minneapolis Fund applications are due April 6th. The One Minneapolis Fund is designed to support the development of diverse leadership development and community engagement in the City of Minneapolis. For more information, go to:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-121027>
- f. Green Business matching grant applications are due April 15th. There are three focus areas: dry cleaners retrofitting away from PERC, vehicle repair shops retrofitting to water-based paint, and other innovative ways to reduce VOCs, particulate matter or other air pollutants. For more information, go to: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/WCMS1P-105418>
- g. On April 22nd, the Environmentally Acceptable Packaging ordinance (polystyrene ban) goes into effect. More information is available at:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/inspections/WCMS1P-132297>
- h. Great River Greening has their registration open for 6 public volunteer events this spring. More information is at: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/volunteer/>
- i. On March 24, the Augsburg Film Series continues with Profit and Loss at 7 pm. The 2014-2015 series features indigenous environmental issues. More information at:
<http://www.augsburg.edu/filmseries/>
- j. On April 11th CEED and Zenteotl Project are collaborating to organize a community emergency response training at East Phillips Community Center. More information is at:
<http://www.ceed.org/latest-with-ceed/responding-together-community-emergency-response-april-11-2015/>

3) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- a. The agenda and March minutes were approved unanimously.

- 4) **Election of Chair and Vice Chair.** Gayle, Shalini and Darrell reviewed the roles of the Chair and Vice Chair. Shalini opened the floor for nominations.

Anna Abruzzese nominated herself for chair. CEAC members voted via paper ballot. Anna won the election. Anna will start chairing the next meeting.

Andrew Murray and Michelle Stockness nominated themselves for vice-chair. Members voted via paper ballot. Michelle won the election.

- 5) **Strategic Planning.** Brendon introduced the Draft Strategic Plan document with the results from the last meeting. Members broke out into groups based on the topic area to discuss the topics. Then a member from each topic area reported to the full CEAC about the topic area and answered questions.
- a. **Zero Waste:** The first topic will be plastic bag fee/ban. The group will begin by meeting with Council members and aides to see what needs to be done. They will try to act as a mediator between the community and the City on related issues and make sure any work is done correctly. They will take into account needs of all residents; think about how a fee might impact different people in different economic situations. Andrew is the lead.
 - b. **Implementation of Climate Action Plan:** The members expanded the group to keep tabs on the Clean Energy Partnership and EVAC. The group will focus on reviewing the implementation priorities of the Climate Action Plan to understand if there are items that need attention. The group may start working on developing metrics that could assess the impact on EJ communities of different strategies. Tony is the lead. (add Brian's and Lisa's name to the topic)
 - c. **Overburdened Communities/Green Zones:** The group might explore Green Zones ordinances that have been implemented in other communities. The group might also explore topics related to emergency preparedness. The group may explore the Health Department's HCAT tool to see whether it can be used to identify overburdened communities. Shalini is the lead. Group will meet before the next CEAC meeting at 2:30 pm. (add Shalini and Roxxanne to the topic)
 - d. **Prepare for the Comprehensive Plan Update:** The group might not be a standing committee but would review the current status of the planning effort and report back to CEAC. Brian is the lead. (add Shalini to the topic)
 - e. **Stormwater:** The members combined two water-related topics into one working group. The group will have three key focuses: reducing chloride/salt use, pursue stormwater reuse, and prioritize green infrastructure. The group also discussed the Prospect North project that is using new green infrastructure approaches. The group will meet on Thursday at 8 am at Common Roots. Jen is the lead. (add Andrew to the list)

Gayle said she would make changes to the strategic plan document based on the discussion. Michelle moved to adopt the strategic plan as amended. Vote passed unanimously. Shalini suggested that each subcommittee should have a lead.

6) Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 pm.