

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Thursday September 8, 2016 4:00-6:00pm

Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Agenda

- 4:00 1) Introductions and approval of September Agenda and July Meeting Minutes** (Attachment 1)
- 4:05 2) Zero Waste Update (Meleah)**
- 4:15 3) City Staff and Member Announcements**
- Green Zones
 - City offering free Home Energy Squad visits and 0% financing for major energy efficiency work for income qualified households for limited time. mncee.org/hes-mpls for 612 335 5874
 - Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan (Michelle)
 - Climate change adaptation/resilience conversations update
 - 2017-2018 CEAC appointments now open until Oct 21
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/WCMSP-185640>
- 4:30 4) Waste Tires Joint CEAC and Public Health Advisory Subcommittee** (Attachment 2)
- HECE requested that the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Community Environmental Advisory Commission study and make recommendations regarding the use of waste tires as ground cover in Minneapolis and report back to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee in February of 2017.
 - First meeting was Aug 23 at PHAC with a presentation by Play it Safe Minneapolis. Anna, Andrew, Jenn G, Meleah and Adam volunteered to be on joint subcommittee.
- 5:45 5) Next meeting October 13 possible items and adjourn**
Please contact Chair at least two weeks before next meeting

Health Energy and Community Engagement Committee (typically meets 1:30):

CEAC Future Item Ideas: Composting/Zero Waste, Equity Ted Talk, Results Minneapolis, Clean Energy Partnership review, City's Air Quality Report (November)

Quorum: 9 (19 members but there are three vacancies –Public Schools rep, business rep and residential rep)

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Thursday July 14, 2016 4:00-6:00pm

Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Anna Abruzzese, Meleah Houseknecht, Andrew Murray, Allan Campbell, Darrell Gerber, James Nash, Michelle Stockness, Jen Kader, Tony Hainault, Lisa Daniels, Ricardo McCurley

Absent: Roxxanne OBrien, Jenna Grove,

Guests: Mike Luke

Staff: Kelly Muellman, Gayle Prest, Kellie Kish, Dave Herberholtz, Siri Simons, Robin Garwood

4:15 Introductions and approval of July Agenda and June Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 4:15pm.

Agenda moved around to accommodate attendance of guest presenters.

Time provided to review the meeting notes from June.

Michelle made motion to approve, Andrew seconded. Agenda and minutes approved unanimously.

4:19 City Staff and Member Announcements

- Green Zones: Next meeting on July 27 from 4:30-7:30pm at Urban Research and Outreach Center is open to the public. It will include an environmental justice training on cumulative impacts, health outcomes and examples of Green Zones concepts from other cities.
- City offering free Home Energy Squad visits and 0% financing for major energy efficiency work for income qualified households for limited time. Go to mncee.org/hes-mpls or call 612 335 5874
 - 50 households have signed up already
 - CenterPoint will be offering free income-qualified Home Energy Squad visits through their Conservation Improvement Plan filing starting in 2017
- The City of Minneapolis is looking to plant pollinator habitat and trees on commercial and multifamily residential (four-plex or larger) property and community space throughout Minneapolis over the next two years with a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/bees>
- Health, Environment and Community Engagement, June 20 meeting direction:
 - Requesting that the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Community Environmental Advisory Commission study and make recommendations regarding the use of waste tires as ground cover in Minneapolis and report back to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee in February of 2017.
 - Directing staff from the Health Department and City Coordinator's Office of Sustainability to work with the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (Andrew and Anna) to support their efforts to study and make recommendations regarding the use of waste tires as ground cover in Minneapolis.
- 100 Resilient Cities update: Minneapolis's contact, Olivia Stinson, is visiting Minneapolis this week meeting with Department leadership. Next steps for the 100RC work includes being assigned a consultant/strategy partner, organizing a fall workshop with high level stakeholders, and hiring a Chief Resiliency Officer.
 - Minneapolis 100RC: <http://www.100resilientcities.org/cities/entry/minneapolis-resilience-challenge#/-/>
- Windustry is seeking volunteers for their state fair booth – looking for 70 volunteers. A training session will be provided approximately 1 week before fair begins. Volunteers get free entrance to the fair as well as a t-shirt.
- Womens' Environmental Institute is looking for volunteers for Crop Mob – volunteer day next Saturday (July 23) for a few hours up to a day. Also looking to hire part or full-time work.

- Environmental Quality Board is hosting a wrap-up for CSEO project and statewide climate action planning. Next Wednesday, July 20 from 12-4pm. At the Science Museum of Minnesota.

4:38 Zero Waste Update (Meleah Houseknecht, Robin Garwood, Dave Herberholtz)

Environmental Initiative is working with Mayor's office and city on stakeholder engagement meetings on zero waste: commercial, multifamily residential and residential starting second half of September. All meetings are open to the public. CEAC will be on invitation list. Meetings will discuss goals, best practices on recycling and waste reduction, and what City should be doing related to strategies and overcoming barriers. Feedback will be provided to City to inform the planning process. The draft plan should be done near the end of 2016. Final Zero Waste plan will be done March 2017. Hopefully CEAC Zero Waste committee can engage more on this and provide feedback.

There also is an internal group of policy makers. Policy makers have interest in addressing construction and demolition waste as well. Better Futures has been doing analysis of city policies for areas of improvements and looking at best practices from other cities – e.g., recycle or reuse certain percentage. Commercial waste stream analysis is in progress and will provide a spectrum/matrix of strategies showing different options and impacts on waste stream. The City is looking at options for new buildings to have better designed internal recycling infrastructure in place.

5:10 Breakout or Update on 2016 CEAC Activities

- Breakout #1 Comp Plan
 - Michelle reported back to the group about the Comp Plan Environmental Systems meeting she attended June 30th as a representative of CEAC. During the Environmental Systems meeting, the group reviewed the themes discussed at the previous meeting, City staff presented the Comp Plan's Minneapolis 2040 values statements, and sub-groups discussed how each theme aligned with the values.
 - Michelle will send out the document the sub-groups reviewed at the June 30 meeting and ask CEAC members if the themes align with the Minneapolis 2040 values, as well as if anything is missing from the themes. She will also coordinate a presentation from Beth Elliot (CPED) about the Minneapolis 2040 community engagement process, including the upcoming public meeting in November. The purpose of the presentation is to answer the following questions 1) How meaningful is public input for the Comp Plan? and 2) At what phase will public input be collected for the Comp Plan?
- Breakout #2 Overburdened Communities
 - How zero waste relates to overburdened communities, especially as it relates to organics. There is disproportionately low distribution of organics sign-ups in overburdened neighborhoods (poor communities of color). The City started w/ traditional outreach, are now seeing huge success with door knocking, mailings, radio ads, billboards, word of mouth, translation, etc. Kellie Kish shared some preliminary results at HECE on engagement/participation outcomes. Ricardo will share presentation.
 - Kelly Muellman went into more detail on engagement work for the Green Zones initiative and provided an update on the next phase of the climate change vulnerability assessment: community climate conversations.

5:55 Next meeting August 11 possible items

- Waste Tires (pending conversation with Public Health Advisory Committee) – will this include crumb rubber used on Astroturf?
- Comp Plan engagement plan update (Michelle will reach out to Beth Elliot) – August or Sept
- Jen Kader working with Public Works on chloride reduction, and meeting with CM Reich, and MPCA coming out with chloride strategy (Aug or Sept)
- Future: Invite new Public Works Director to future CEAC meeting (she starts mid-August)
- Other Items? Please contact Chair at least two weeks before next meeting

6:02 Meeting adjourned

**CEAC / PHAC Joint meeting on Waste Tires
August 23, 2016 (part of PHAC meeting breakout)**

Attendees: Gayle Prest, Anna Abruzzese (CEAC), M Meleah Houseknecht (CEAC), Jenn and August Grove (CEAC), Dr Craig Hedberg (PHAC), Joey Colianni, (PHAC), Tom Freeman (Faegre Baker Daniels), Jon Duesman (MPRB), Lee Setter (MPS), Dianna Kennedy (Play It Safe Minneapolis), Nancy Brown (Play It Safe Minneapolis)

Introductions were made and handouts distributed including:

- Play It Safe PowerPoint presentation
- City Council's Health Environment and Community Engagement July 11, 2016 Request for Council Action memo on Play It Safe presentation, and directions to PHAC and CEAC to study the issue
- 2008 PHAC and CEAC crumb rubber recommendations

Diana Kennedy and Nancy Brown of Place It Safe Minneapolis kicked off the meeting. The group is a parent-led effort to replace shredded tires in the playgrounds at Minneapolis Public Schools and elsewhere with a non-toxic alternative. They expressed a willingness to share their knowledge and offered technical assistance as the group proceeds in its work.

There are basically two types of waste tire material used around children at elementary, middle, private schools, churches, nursery schools:

1. Tire mulch: chunks of waste tire often used in playgrounds
2. Crumb rubber "artificial turf": much finer size than tire mulch typically used on sport fields

Diana and Nancy's presentation major talking points include:

1. History of federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) involvement in developing market for waste tires.
2. Children typically exposed through ingestion, dermal absorption and/or inhalation.
3. Two environmental concerns: 1) Water (stormwater and potable) - Because it moves easily and degrades to dust than to leachate that runs into stormwater drains, but also is carried into homes, and down drain to city sewer system. 2) Heat Island - Studies have shown that synthetic turf fields are up to 60 degrees hotter than grass fields. Heat causes chemicals to outgas more quickly. Heat stress and skin injuries (burns) are medical concerns as well.
4. There have been a number of studies including 2015 Yale study which found 96 chemicals in samples of mulch and crumb rubber. Just under half have never been studied for health effects. Safe levels are set for adults, not children. Longitudinal studies not done, no studies to date have been good. Many of these chemicals are carcinogens. This is not a regulated industry so quality and type of waste tire products vary greatly by source.
5. Knowledge has changed. Eight years ago the material was deemed safe by most. Now major groups that claim it is safe are Synthetic Turf Council, US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and EPA. The MPRB manages its playgrounds in accordance with CPSC's Public

Playground Safety Handbook. Also, the EPA did limited sample study in 2008 and their website now states “Concerns have been raised by the public about the safety of recycled tire crumb used in playing fields and playgrounds in the United States. Limited studies have not shown an elevated health risk from playing on fields with tire crumb, but the existing studies do not comprehensively evaluate the concerns about health risks from exposure to tire crumb.”

6. Briefly reviewed findings by others including Spain, Italy and Mount Sinai along with other US cities’ actions to ban, remove or replace crumb rubber/tire mulch.
7. The Duluth School Board recently voted to move forward with plans to replace the rubber mulch that’s used on most district elementary school playgrounds.
8. There are alternatives and while they also have problems they are not toxic. These include engineered wood fiber (yes they get moldy and it freezes but so does artificial turf).
9. Grass without chemicals is another alternative. Alternatives can cost no more, some have less maintenance (one overlooked fact is that artificial turf is often watered down to cool off).
10. Eight years ago CEAC and PHAC took a precautionary wait and see approach. But now other cities have taken action they encouraged the groups to support their recommendation.

Earlier this year, the EPA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) launched a multi-agency action plan to study key environmental human health questions and a preliminary report expected at end of this year.

- Minneapolis Public Schools: 66 separate playground areas and 47 currently have engineered rubber mulch covering 204,170 Square Feet. The cost to convert all 47 rubber mulch play areas to engineered wood fiber: \$1,143,352 (cost likely to increase with needed border changes). The only synthetic turf field with crumb rubber is at Washburn High School. All other fields are grass. They do not have any immediate plans to add more.
- MPRB: 6-7 existing artificial turf fields, no playgrounds use crumb rubber (# not yet verified)

Next Steps:

- Agreed to switch off meetings as a joint effort between PHAC and CEAC monthly meetings
- Next meeting will be at CEAC meeting Thursday Sept 8, 430-5:30 p.m. with presentations by Minneapolis Public Schools and MPRB staff
- The group is interested in also hearing from experts. Dr. Hedberg volunteered to bring forward some options at the Sept 8 meeting. Also staff will check in on status at Minnesota Dept. of Health.