



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center, 7071 University Ave Ne

AGENDA

February 11, 2020

Location: Fridley Civic Campus, Banfill Room, 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Approve Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes

- 1) Review January 14 Minutes

New Business

- 1) 2020 Meeting Schedule
- 2) Art X Water residency
- 3) Mississippi St meeting

Old Business

- 1) Renewable energy breakfast
- 2) Lawns to Legumes update

Other

- 1) Disclosure forms
- 2) Mississippi St Meeting- February 18 (4-6 PM)
- 3) Renewable Energy breakfast- February 27 (7:30-9:00 AM)

Next meeting March 10 at 7:00 PM at Fridley Civic Campus

Adjourn



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center, 7071 University Ave Ne

MINUTES

January 14, 2020

Location: City of Fridley Civic Campus, Banfill Room

Call to Order

Chair Hanson called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Amy Dritz, Mark Hanson, Justin Foell, Nick Olberding, Heidi Ferris

Absent: Sam Stoxen, Paul Westby

Staff: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Additional: Alyssa Kruzel, Community Engagement Specialist

Approval of Minutes

Chair Hansen called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the December 10, 2019 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission minutes.

Commissioner Dritz noted that her last name was misspelled in two locations. She also said that the word “avoid” was missing from the sentence “Chair Hansen asked if you could “*avoid*” [removing] trees by placing the sidewalk right along the curb.

Commissioner Ferris made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Foell seconded the motion to approve the minutes with the above-mentioned corrections.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

New Business

- 1) Presentation by Alyssa Kruzel, Community Engagement Specialist

Ms. Kruzel provided information on her position as the Community Engagement Specialist and demographic information related to Fridley that would inform her work. She explained the difference between outreach and engagement wherein the goal of outreach is increasing awareness with the goal of achieving participation while engagement involves the active organization of individuals and organizations in the planning process. Ms. Kruzel provided information on different forms of community engagement and her workplan in Fridley. She also provided information on the census. Commissioner Ferris asked if this information had been shared with the schools, noting that the dual Spanish-English flier might be good to introduce at Woodcrest Elementary.

Chair Hansen said that his wife was involved with the PTO at Woodcrest and would be a good contact. Ms. Ferris also said that discussions on the census could be a successful social studies lesson. Commissioner Foell asked if about best practices related to engagement that could be brought to programs that the EQEC would like to promote including the organics program and energy outreach. Ms. Kruzel said that she would be happy to work with the EQEC on a work plan for those items.

2) Active Transportation Plan

Ms. Workin brought back the trail versus sidewalk along University Avenue following council discussion on the issue. She shared long term plans for the area including the extension of the road to 73rd which would open up the trail. She also shared that there would be cross walks across the road connecting the trail to the Civic Campus. Chair Hansen asked if there would be any concerns about flooding from the trail. Ms. Ferris shared that she had heard concerns from Metro Heights Academy related to crossing University. She noted that many of the students left and arrived at the school at non-traditional hours. The commissioners asked about the impacts of a crosswalk to Holiday Gas Station from the sidewalk. Ms. Workin said they had not studied the site lines related to a potential crosswalk. Commissioner Foell said he saw the sidewalk getting more use. Chair Hansen said that as a biker, he did not feel unsafe on the service road. Ms. Ferris asked if it would be possible to plant trees along the service road as a wind break. Ms. Workin said she was not sure. The commission recommended the sidewalk as the preferred alternative since trails along University Avenue are more exposed which makes them less recreational and enjoyable.

3) PACE Financing

Ms. Workin shared that PACE financing was now available in Anoka County. She said that religious institutions and non-profits can take advantage of it as well as other commercial properties. She encouraged commissioners to let groups know of this program. She mentioned that the City and Xcel Energy are planning a renewable energy breakfast for February 27 to share information about the program.

Old Business

1) Energy Action Plan update

Ms. Workin said the information was in the packet.

2) Lawns to Legumes

Ms. Workin shared that the community Lawns to Legumes grant had been submitted and that the individual grant was still open. Commissioner Dritz asked if she should continue to share information. Ms. Workin

encouraged commissioners to share information on the individual program but wait to share on the community program until they learned whether they had received funding.

Other

1) Disclosure Forms

Ms. Workin distributed disclosure forms

2) Environmental Commission Gathering

Ms. Workin shared that there was an environmental commission gathering through the Alliance for Sustainability 2/13 in Roseville. Commissioner Foell forwarded information.

Adjournment

Commissioner Dritz moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Foell seconded the motion. The meeting of the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission adjourned at 8:27 p.m.



Memorandum

Planning Division

DATE: February 6, 2019

TO: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission members

FROM: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

SUBJECT: Energy Action Plan

On November 26th, 2018 the City Council approved an Energy Action Plan for the City of Fridley. In order to achieve the goals of the plan, an implementation plan was drafted. The below is a monthly update to the EQEC on progress toward completing the implementation plan:

January 2019

- 1 social media post
- Continued discussions for community solar subscription
- Letter to 300 businesses on energy programs and updates
- Email to Cops and Clergy group
- Inclusion of energy programs in Q1 Business Newsletter
- Meeting with Sundial Solar on solar lighting

Upcoming Events

- Energy breakfast 2/27