



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center, 6431 University Ave Ne

DRAFT MINUTES

March 8, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room A (Main Level, Fridley City Hall)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Mark Hansen.

Attendees: Vice Chairman Hansen, Commissioner Paul Westby, Commissioner Justin Foell, Commissioner Sam Stoxen, Jim Kosluchar, Public Works Director

Approve Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes

Approve Minutes of February 9th, 2016. Hansen submitted written minor edits clarifying and correcting the draft minutes.

MOTION by Commissioner Westby and seconded by Commissioner Stoxen to approve the February 9th minutes as noted, with notations passed along to staff for revision. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1) New Municipal Complex

Mr. Kosluchar discussed current concepts for a potential Municipal Complex, including a new combination facility including a City Hall, Fire Hall, Police Station, and Public Works facility. The Commission was asked to provide insight and recommendations for such a facility with regard to planning of stormwater, energy and transportation.

The Commission identified elements that would be environmentally beneficial as part of the project work, including 1) stormwater re-use for Community Gardens and education purposes, 2) potential use of cisterns and or other recharge elements, 3) runoff that is fully contained within the site, 4) potential for rain gardens around patio homes, 5) tree boxes, 6) best practices from other communities such as

Maplewood in recent developments. Commission members identified that making these elements maintenance free or as low maintenance as possible should be an objective, and funding from either Rice Creek Watershed District or Legacy Amendment should be developed. Other elements that would enhance the Environmental mission of the EQEC in this development include curbside bicycle parking along front face of buildings, and the use of solar and use of geothermal as far as practicable. The Commission also identified that evening uses would enhance the development's potential and associated elements such as use of and access to the pond area and a central location for events and food trucks, and similar development outcomes should be considered during design.

2) Review and Refinement of 2016 EQEC Projects, Goals and Outreach

Hansen let discussion on follow-up of EQEC Projects, Goals and Outreach, and provided a spreadsheet that he had created showing a list of practices with summarized Commissioner goals. He recommended that Commissioners participate in 3-4 focused activities chosen by the commission that are most popular based on selection of each Commission member. The projects identified to be undertaken by a few members included storm water management, parks and trails, surface water quality, economic and community development benchmarks and community engagement. Also of interest were living streets projects including the upcoming Mississippi Street road diet and speed reduction, and urban forests including tree plantings in parks. Commissioner Westby advised that he has meeting with Rice Creek Watershed District next week to develop a capstone project that could be part of this storm water mission. Commissioner Foell advised of interest in promoting solar, however, this was a fairly extensive undertaking and likely too detailed in nature for the EQEC to undertake. One example of how promoting solar might work would be to develop or assist in the development of code that eliminates barriers for solar for single-family dwellings. Hansen indicated that once these topics were settled on, that a list of activities would be developed.

3) Set Date for National Trails Day Event

The Commission discussed the use of Riedel farm house for the event this year and concluded that there may be a high demand for this in early June, which would be the prospective date of the event. A second suggestion was to use the Fridley Community Center at a time when possibly the Fridley Farmers Market is ongoing and have some synergy with the ongoing events at the FFM. The event schedule was discussed and a date of June 4, 2016 was selected for the event. The EQE noted the need to get the word out to the community and discussed the Sun Focus and the city newsletter for advertising. While the EQE wanted to target the April city newsletter, Kosluchar advised with the publication deadlines that is not feasible and the June newsletter be used.

4) *Volunteers for Arbor Day Tree Sale*

The Commission discussed volunteers for the Arbor Day Tree Sale on April 30 from 9-noon. Hanson, Stoxen, Westby indicated they will likely be available and they wanted to confirm their schedules. Foell advised he may be able to rearrange plans in order to attend and assist with the effort.

Old Business

5) *Osborne Road Update*

A summary of the public meeting held by the Anoka County Highway Department for Osborne Road was discussed. It was noted that of two written comments received by ACHD, both of these were from City of Fridley EQE members and then no other written comments from the public we received outside the meeting. Kosluchar provided an update on the project after a staff meeting with ACHD. The staff recommendation is for the 3-lane section with some roundabouts. This included Foell's recommendation to use some plantings near the elementary school where the section change from three to four lanes. The Commission indicated there were some concerns with the access to the church to the north of Osborne Road in Spring Lake Park. Kosluchar advised that the access is under consideration and recognized as a potential issue by ACHD.

MOTION by Stoxen supported by Foell to formally support the three-lane option for Osborne Road with roundabouts as presented to staff by ACHD, if affordable. The motion passed unanimously.

Other

Hanson when on to report on activities including recycling and parks and asked about the status of recycling in Edgewater Park particularly, and requested a recycling bin at that park.

Hanson indicated a desire to develop a speaker series of sorts for the EQEC, there was some discussion on how this event or how these events might work best in the future to get public interest and involvement. The suggestion was made by staff to look into possibly partnering with Springbrook Nature Center on their speaker series since it is already ongoing. Hansen indicated a desire to contact the SNC Foundation regarding this.

It was noted that the Green Expo will be held at the National Sports Center in Blaine on April 23rd, 2016.

Next Meetings/Announcements

Tuesday, April 12th, 2015, 7:00 p.m., location at City Hall, Conference Room A.

Adjourn

MOTION by Commissioner Westby and seconded by Commissioner Stoxen to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.