



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM	MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023	6:00 PM
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1. Call to Order
 - A. Introductions
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. 2023 Work Plan
 - B. Energy Action Plan Update
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
5. Adjournment



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg
FROM: Mathias Hughey
MEETING DATE: January 23, 2023
SUBJECT: Introductions

Background:

Mathias Hughey was hired in August of 2022 as the Community Development Coordinator. This position is intended to serve as the staff liaison to the Environmental Commission, and Mathias has taken over that role from David Wanberg.

Commissioners should direct their communications to Mathias moving forward, and are welcome to CC David Wanberg.

Former Commissioner Katy Anderegg has submitted a written letter of resignation. She is moving out of Faribault and will no longer be eligible to serve on the Commission.

There are several commissioner terms expiring in early 2023. Emily Nesvold has indicated that she will not be reapplying to serve on the commission. We are grateful for her service, and look forward to potential collaborations with her work for GROWS and Rotary.

Next month will be our Annual Meeting when we will hold elections for Chair and Vice Chair.

Recommendation:

Attachments:



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Chair Huston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Delia Denis, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Steinkamp and Chair Huston.

Absent: Issac Yetzer, Commissioners Wasilowski and Anderegg.

Staff: David Wanberg, Mathias Hughey and Kari Casper.

3. Items for Discussion

A. MS4 Presentation

Mark DuChene, City Engineer, will provided his annual update to the Environmental Commission on the City's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) work.

Wanberg was to send the power point.

Roger Steinkamp arrived at 6:19 p.m.

Martha Brown arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Once there was a quorum, the Chair asked for introductions of Delia and Mathias.

2. Approve June 27, 2022 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nesvold and seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the June 27, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

B. Prairie Ridge Park Rain Garden

Mark DuChene, City Engineer, will update the Environmental Commission on the Prairie Ridge Park rain garden. The Environmental Commission may want to discuss how it can work with the Park Board and others to promote an awareness and understanding of the benefits of rain gardens. Duchene was going to look up the seed mix. Nesvold asked about signage and Wanberg confirmed that it would be a part of it.

C. University of Minnesota – Student Project in Faribault

David Wanberg, City Planner, has invited roughly 40 juniors and seniors enrolled in a Sustainable Communities class at the University of Minnesota to identify opportunities to help Faribault move toward sustainability. Students will spend roughly 40 hours preparing concepts on topics such as bee lawns, native shoreland buffers, food gardens, placemaking, clean and renewable energy, eco-industrial parks, sustainable housing, and other topics. Students are planning to come to Faribault around 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 29.

Wanberg stated that the students are curious about Food Gardens. Huston talked about harvesting the seeds from Crocker's Creek. Wanberg suggested that Huston contact Danil Thorestsson our GreenCorps member to rally the troupes.

D. Minnesota GreenCorps Work Program

The City of Faribault is fortunate to have Danil Thorestsson, Minnesota GreenCorps Member, working with the community over the next 11 months. Danil will be focusing his efforts on "community readiness and outreach" related to sustainability. He will provide the Commission with a brief overview of his work plan as it relates to the Environmental Commissions work plan.

E. Overview of Bee Lawns and Native Plantings

Commissioners Nesvold and Brown met with Paul Peanasky, Parks and Recreation Director, to explore possibilities to enhance native/pollinator plantings and bee lawns. More recently, Commissioner Brown and David Wanberg, City Planner, met with Lisa Reuvers to discuss possible bee lawn demonstration areas around the library. .

F. October 26 Joint Meeting with Park Board

Some of the Environmental Commission's work overlaps with the Park Board. Consequently, Paul Peanasky, Parks and Recreation Director, and David Wanberg, City Planner, have scheduled a joint meeting for Wednesday, October 26, at 6:00 p.m. mostly to discuss Prairie Ridge Park . Discussed cancelling next ENV meeting and just meet with the Parks Board

G. Faribault Energy Action Plan Update

In 2017, Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Program worked with the Faribault Community to develop an Energy Action Plan. Xcel has offered to work with the City to update the Plan (Community Energy Planning Guide (faribault.mn.us)). The City Planner will provide a brief overview of the 2017 plan and facilitate a discussion regarding the process to update the plan.

Wanberg is to email out the current energy action plan.

H. October 6 Annual City-County Climate Action Conference

The Annual City-County Climate Action Conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2022. Refer to the attachment for more information.

Wanberg is to send flyer out.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

5. Adjournment

Chair Huston asked for a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Nesvold brought the motion, seconded by Commissioner Steinkamp at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 26, 2022

by: _____
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg
FROM: Mathias Hughey

MEETING DATE: January 23, 2023
SUBJECT: 2023 Work Plan

Background:

Each year the environmental commission puts together its work plan for the coming year. The previous year's work plan is attached, and includes 5 goals.

1. Promote an understanding of environmental issues and opportunities.
2. Promote pollinators and natural landscaping and reduce noxious and invasive plants.
3. Promote efforts to address climate change.
4. Strengthen the City's actions in the GreenStep Cities program.
5. Respond to ongoing environmental issues and opportunities affecting the City.

Questions for discussion include:

- How did the commission do on achieving or addressing these goals? areas for improvement? barriers to action? things done well/successes?
- What areas would the commission like to work on in the coming year?
- How can the commission be most effective in achieving its goals?
- What is the Commission's role in addressing climate change?
- What is the Commission's role relative to natural resources?

Recommendation:

Identify approximately 5 focus areas or topics for the coming year, and steps to achieve/address identified priorities.

Attachments:

1. Info Sheet for HD

2. Potential Work Plan Items - List



Faribault Environmental Commission

Learn more at <https://www.ci.faribault.mn.us/610/Environmental-Commission>

Residents are welcome to attend. We meet the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in City Hall. We need your involvement to reach our 5 Workplan Goals for 2022, and these websites provide education and resources aligned with our goals.

1. Promote an understanding of environmental issues and opportunities.

12 Biggest Environmental Issues of 2022: www.earth.org

Forest Foundation: <https://www.forestfoundation.org>

Environmental Defense Fund: <https://www.edf.org/>

2. Promote pollinators and natural landscaping and reduce noxious and invasive plants.

University of Minnesota Extension: <https://extension.umn.edu/>

Search for information on gardening, invasive species, pollinators, natural landscaping, etc.

River Bend Nature Center: <https://riverbendnaturecenter.org/>

Register for workshops on pollinators, etc.

3. Promote efforts to address climate change.

Climate Ready Communities: <https://climatereadycommunities.org>

Xcel Home Energy Squad: (Google search – choose Minnesota)

4. Strengthen the City's actions in the GreenStep Cities program.

GreenStep Cities: <https://betterenergy.org/greenstep-cities/>

GreenStep Cities: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/>

5. Respond to ongoing environmental issues and opportunities affecting the City.

City Council: <https://www.ci.faribault.mn.us/277/City-Council>

Ordinances

- Natural Landscape, noxious weeds, tall grass
- Tree preservation ordinance
- Energy and Air Pollution
- Anti-Idling
- Parking Minimums, Maximums, EV and Bike parking bonuses
- Complete Streets
- Zero-Waste
- Wetland Ordinance
- Sustainable Building Ordinance

Awareness campaigns

- Composting
- Bee Lawns (practice and funding)
- Pollinator Planting (practice and funding)
- Trees (practice and funding)
- Rain Gardens
- PACE & Solar
- Signs, tabling, articles, etc.

City-supported Action

- Climate Action/Mitigation Plan
- Annual Tree Sale
- Cost-Share for residents: Rain Gardens & Curb cuts, rain barrels, tree sale, tree planting, back-yard compost
- Ecological Restorations, ex. Crocker's Creek, Straight River Banks, Undevelopable Bluffs, Wetlands
- Funding sustainable activities – ex. Cost share, PACE
- Bee lawn at Airport?

Partner Supported Actions

School

- Bus Stop Construction – shop class
- Bike Bus - Guided Bike-to-school groups/rides
- Solar installations?

Grants

- Restoration grants
- Pollinator grants (Bluethumb, Lawns to legumes)
- Awareness campaign grants
- Planning Grants (Climate Mitigation)
- Composting?



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg
FROM: Mathias Hughey
MEETING DATE: January 23, 2023
SUBJECT: Energy Action Plan Update

Background:

In 2017 the City teamed up with Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program to develop an energy action plan for the city. Faribault was one of the first cities in the state to participate in the program. Now Partners in Energy is looking to revisit the plan, identify progress that's been made, areas for continued growth, and new opportunities. This will involve putting together an Energy Action Core Team. The composition of the team is yet to be determined, but Mayor Kevin Voracek has indicated he will serve. The current plan is to host 4 planning sessions, the first and last with the Core Team, a second in-person community-wide event, and a third virtual or mixed, community-wide event.

There will also be on-going virtual engagement through surveys and other means.

Initially, we anticipate members of the Core Team will attend 2-4 sessions between February and August. Meetings could range from 1-3 hours depending on the type of work session and the level of engagement/discussion.

We are also looking to establish at least one meeting with a group of interested and dedicated youth from the city.

Recommendation:

Designate two individuals to represent the environmental commission on the Energy Action Plan Core Team.

Assistance in recruiting or identifying other community members to serve on the Core Team.

Attachments:

1. PiE-MN-Faribault Planning Process (002)

FARIBAULT PLANNING PROCESS OUTLINE

OPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR PLANNING

CONSIDERATIONS IN PLANNING

- **Data:** Renewed baseline data will be provided to ensure new goals and targets can be measured.
- **Focus areas:** Broad focus areas to help planning conversations be nimble to what the community's needs are.
- **GHG goal:** Can set some parameters at the 1st work session to get feedback on in workshops. Focus on climate change and healthy homes. EV strategies will not contribute to GHG goals.
- **Energy Equity:** Keep equity as a lens in all workshops and call out clearly in the plan.
- **In-person workshop:** Consider accessible space (Library?), kid friendly atmosphere or daycare, incentives to participation, food, and translation.
- **Community-wide workshops:** Have trusted messengers do community invitations, and welcome activity.
- **Core team planning:** Consider letting community drive a new vision, develop the questions to the community that will create the vision, strategies, and goals/targets, stakeholder mapping will help with invitations to workshops, surveys, and one-on-one interviews. (Core team: City staff, PiE team, Others?)

PLANNING WORKSHOPS AND OUTREACH

Outreach in conjunction with in-person workshops

- Community input boards – Engaging the general community in passer-by and gathering spaces
- Community survey – Paper and online survey's deployed with wide reach or directed spaces
- U of MN class engagement – Process Presentation and Creative Strategy Brainstorm
- One-on-one interviews – Engage key stakeholders directly



BROAD FOCUS AREAS WITH STAKEHOLDER AUDIENCES:

Focus Areas

Energy Efficiency

Renewable Energy

Electric Vehicles

Stakeholders/Audiences

- Businesses
- Residents (Renters, Homeowners)
- Students
- Multi-family buildings
- Higher Education
- Municipal buildings
- Manufactured home parks
- Others?

PARTNERS IN ENERGY SUPPORT

4 Workshops

- Workshop 1 – Core Team
 - City Staff, council members, commission members
 - Community leaders
 - Xcel Energy
- Workshop 2-3
 - Community-wide event in-person
 - Community-wide event virtual
- Workshop 4 – Core Team

Community Outreach Tools

- Guiding questions
- Community input boards
- Survey
- One-on-one interview guide
- Data collection tool

PARTNERS IN ENERGY LEAD PLANNING



CITY LEAD OUTREACH THROUGHOUT PLANNING TIMELINE

- **Community input boards** – Engaging the general community in passer-by and gathering spaces
 - **Community survey** – Paper and online survey's deployed with wide reach or directed spaces
 - **Small stakeholder group engagement** – bring together smaller stakeholder groups as called out in stakeholder mapping as needed.
 - **One-on-one interviews** – Engage key stakeholders directly
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- Partners in Energy will provide tools for outreach and data collection
 - City will provide outreach data collected to Partners in Energy to incorporate into plan.

OUTCOMES

