



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023	6:00 PM
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1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. Composting at City Facilities
 - B. Environmental Commission Budget Update
 - C. ElectriFUN Faribault Ride and Drive Update
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
 - i Native Landscaping Update
 - ii Energy Action Plan Update
5. Adjournment



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Martha Brown at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Teresa DeMars, Cindy Diessner, Dick Huston, Lee Nordmeyer. Also in attendance was the Community Development Coordinator, Mathias Hughey and Kari Casper, Administrative Assistant. Also attending was Kristine Goodrich, Faribault Daily News.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Brown asked Hughey to send the form as referenced in the minutes and, after some discussion, Dick Huston made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Lee Nordmeyer. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Items for Discussion

A. Proposed Ordinance Amendments related to Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Hughey handed out Chair Wasilowski's email with comments for discussion on the proposed ordinance amendments. Hughey added that the City has chosen to allow the planning department to give a 20% credit on parking spaces if the company installs an EV charging station. The board chose not to restrict level 1 and level 2 to single family residences. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Lee Nordmeyer to Approve the proposed ordinance and amendments as presented. The motion passed on a 4/1 vote with Diessner voting to abstain.

B. Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance

Motion by Teresa DeMars to implement a registration system and allow the applicant to purchase a sign for a small fee of \$15.00 that would alleviate code enforcement's need to issue citations and would be recognizable to the public as a natural landscape.

Hughey offered to have staff visit the site if there were questionable plants. The motion was then seconded by Dick Huston. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Updated Energy Action Plan Draft

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Teresa DeMars to approve the Energy Action Plan with the recommendation that the City impose Sustainable Building Codes and adopt a program that requires energy audits at the time of the sale of a house as well as upon the request of a rental license. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Composting at City Facilities

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Teresa DeMars to table the adding of a compost contract to the City Hall break room until the commission has an opportunity to view the

current budget. The motion passed on a 4/1 vote.

E. ElectriFUN Faribault

The Environmental Commission agreed to table the event on 9/23 at Trystar. The people who indicated that they would like to attend would be Teresa DeMars, who will already be there for Rice County, Cindy Diessner and Lee Nordmeyer. We will let Roger Steinkamp know about this as well.

F. CERTs Seed Grants Ideas

Staff directed the board to review this information and to send him emails in this regard.

G. Complete Streets and Walk Audit

There will be a ribbon cutting at the Farmer's Market for the bump outs on September 16th during Family Day.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

Hughey indicated that the City is working on Level 3 with the Green Step Cities.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Lee Nordmeyer, seconded by Dick Huston to Adjourn at 7:25 p.m. The motion passed on a 5/0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: _____
Kari Casper
Recording Secretary



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: September 25, 2023
SUBJECT: Composting at City Facilities

Background:

Last month, the Environmental Commission tabled a discussion on compost collection at City facilities. The City recently began purchasing compostable plates and bowls for use by staff in the breakroom, and there have been discussions about replacing Styrofoam coffee cups and plastic utensils with BPI-certified compostable alternatives. So far, the costs have been comparable between these products. The environmental benefits are not being realized because the compostable products are landfilled with the rest of the refuse generated at City Hall.

Curbside Compost Cooperative recently announced that they had reached their pre-service subscriber goal and will begin compost collection soon.

City staff discussions reveal that many city staff consistently discard recyclable and compostable items in the trash. If taken as an indication of existing knowledge and norms about proper disposal, an internal education campaign would likely need to accompany the rollout of composting services at City Hall. A 5-gallon bucket for compostable material is likely insufficient to collect all compostable materials generated at City Hall in one week, especially if plates, bowls, etc., are made of compostable material.

Recommendation:

Prepare a recommendation to the City Council regarding Curbside Compost Collections at City facilities. Include the following in the Environmental Commission's recommendation:

1. The number of buckets appropriate for a given facility.

2. Which facilities to subscribe, and/or how facilities might opt into or out of compost collection?
3. The duration of subscriptions on a trial basis or when and how reevaluation of the program might occur.
4. Would funding a trial subscription be an appropriate use of Environmental Commission funds?

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: September 25, 2023
SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Budget Update

Background:

In 2023 and previous years, the City Council has budgeted a small amount of funding for the administration of the Environmental Commission. Funds have been used to provide supplemental funding for Home Energy Squad visits, printing, surveys, social media ads, training for Green Corps members, conference attendance costs, special projects when available, and other expenses related to the administration of the commission and its projects.

If the Environmental Commission would like to request funding for special projects or initiatives, then a request can be made to the City Council to allocate funds for those projects. It is currently budgeting season and therefore an opportune time to discuss next year's work plan and potential projects.

Recommendation:

Discuss priorities and projects for 2024 and determine if there is a need to request additional funding for proposed projects. Please note that the Council will likely not provide the Environmental Commission with more than \$2,000 for fiscal year 2024. If additional research is necessary to determine anticipated costs (i.e. for signs, printing, promotion, materials, etc.) and develop a budget proposal, the Environmental Commission should develop a specific list of anticipated expenses and identify those costs, or identify who is responsible for identifying those costs, etc.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: September 25, 2023
SUBJECT: ElectriFUN Faribault Ride and Drive Update

Background:

The Community Development Coordinator and members of the Environmental Commission will provide a verbal update on the ElectriFUN Faribault with Recharge America ride and drive event.

Recommendation:

Not applicable.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: September 25, 2023
SUBJECT: Native Landscaping Update

Background:

The Community Development Coordinator met with members of the Gardeners Reaching Out With Service (GROWS) pollinator group to discuss the updated tall grass and weed ordinance and review the pollinators section on the City's website. The parks department has been providing signs for gardens/yards that sign up and meet certain pollinator-friendly guidelines as verified by GROWS members. There are also guides and resources available to assist people with planting native gardens.

The existing map feature is limited to gardens that have been verified by the GROWS program, so residents attempting to establish gardens, experimenting, or who might be pursuing other pro-pollinator alternatives are unable to register their efforts. Another consideration is that the current sign-up system uses a paper form. The Community Development Coordinator will work with the GIS Coordinator to create an online form and corresponding map that will include a variety of projects.

The Community Development Coordinator also intends to update guides and is working with GROWS members to increase social media outreach to inspire the residents to plant native plants.

Additional opportunities to raise awareness of pollinator-friendly and environmentally-friendly lawn, landscaping, and gardening practices may include flyers inserted into water bills, tabling at events, organizing community actions, and more. The role and level of involvement of the Environmental Commission could be a topic for discussion.

Recommendation:

If commissioners would like to assist with this effort by reviewing existing documents and providing feedback or creating drafts of updated guides and resources, it would be a great way to contribute.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: September 25, 2023
SUBJECT: Energy Action Plan Update

Background:

On Tuesday, October 3rd, City Staff and Partners in Energy will present the Energy Action Plan Update to the City Council during their work session for discussion. Pending the outcome of that presentation and discussion, the City Council is tentatively scheduled to vote on the adoption of the plan at the following Council meeting on Tuesday, October 10th.

Members of the Environmental Commission, especially those who participated as members of the Energy Action Team, are encouraged to attend the Council work session to be available to address any questions the City Council may have and to voice their support of the plan if given the opportunity.

Recommendation:

Attachments: