

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

6:00 PM

### Meeting Items

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Wasilowski at 6:00 pm. Commissioners Dick Huston, Martha Brown, Cindy Diessner, Teresa DeMars, Lee Nordmeyer and Roger Steinkamp. Also in attendance was Community Development Coordinator, Mathias Hughey and Administrative Assistant II, Kari Casper and Deb Casper as the interpreter.

#### 2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Martha Brown, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed on a 7/0 vote.

#### 3. Items for Discussion

##### A. Composting at City Facilities

Hughey began his presentation by stating that each building would be set for a commercial price which is a bit higher than the residential one, running at about \$25 to \$35 for each facility. Diessner stated that she thought the board had discussed just doing the City Hall for a six-month trial and Nordmeyer concurred. Brown asked if the company provides training and showed us how to do it? Hughey said that they thought that they could. Diessner asked if anyone had polled the facilities for participation, Hughey stated we have not done that. Nordmeyer stated that it is probably good to be a compostable city and worth the money. Brown inquired about educating. Casper added that they have literature available when they drop off the bucket. Chair Wasilowski asked if we could include in the motion that we ask the other faculties to participate in compostable products as well. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Martha Brown to recommend to city council that the city sign up for commercial compost collection at facilities where city staff are willing or interested and that those facilities switch from non-compostable to compostable BP certified products. The motion passed on a 7/0 vote.

##### B. Environmental Commission Budget Update

Hughey started out with literature to be on a flyer to go out with the water billing statements. Brown asked if it would be in three languages. The bill would be around \$1,000. There was some discussion on ways to make a mailing less expensive.

Diessner asked if the City had an email address list. Hughey stated that they do not but thought that maybe the Park 's department may have an emailing list. They have the list only for people who are interested in parks information.

After much discussion, Hughey asked if there were any additional projects that the commission would like to discuss for budgeting. Huston asked for some time and came back next month. Hughey suggested that the board email him with suggestions on initiatives or projects. Steinkamp asked for a tree plan. Diessner asked about the heat tape program that Hughey mentioned and Casper outlined the HRA's initiative on this

program.

Brown asked to have multiple languages for all communications.

Motion by Teresa DeMars, seconded by Roger Steinkamp to Table. The motion passed on a 7/0 vote.

C. ElectriFUN Faribault Ride and Drive Update

Hughey thanked the members for their presence at the event. Due to the weather, the tables were inside the building. Hughey reported that about 100 to 150 people attended the event. Test drives were done all day long. The event showcased many vehicles, two of which were two Teslas. They had a Prius Prime, Outlanders and the City's Leaf. Steinkamp added that it was a good event. DeMars had many conversations. Diessner stated that she was hoping there would have been information on the energy audits.

Diessner also recommended that we table more events and work with other organizations. Nordmeyer said that people were very interested in composting and appreciated letting people know that the City has an Environmental Commission. No action was taken at this time.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

i Native Landscaping Update

There is a new tall grass and weed ordinance. They are looking at raising awareness.

Hughey met with Grows. Grows has been working on social media posts and working with the city.

Hughey requested that the commission bring forward resources they would like to add to the city's media. Diessner suggested working with other organizations.

Steinkamp asked if Hughey had received any feedback from the police. Hughey has not. Steinkamp mentioned that he had been approached by the police regarding his crabapple tree.

Casper added that the City works on complaints and they do not actively go looking for violations.

ii Energy Action Plan Update

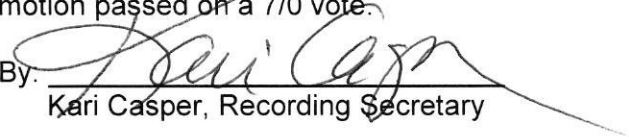
Hughey stated that the Energy Action Plan would go to a City Council work session on October 10 and invited members to attend. Diessner stated she wanted to attend.

Nordmeyer and Steinkamp asked about the time. Casper stated 6:00 p.m.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Lee Nordmeyer, seconded by Dick Huston to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. The motion passed on a 7/0 vote.

By:

  
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary