



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order/Approve Agenda

A regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Teresa DeMars. Members in attendance were Sarah Middleton, Dick Huston, Lee Nordmeyer, and Chair Teresa DeMars. Also in attendance were Robert Harris, III, Economic Development Coordinator, David Wanberg, Director of Community and Economic Development, and Kari Casper, Administrative Assistant. Special guests included Shafi Qanyare and Mark Abbott.

David Wanberg asked to add NEVI to the agenda. The Chair then asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. A motion was made by Dick Huston, seconded by Sarah Middleton. The motion carried on a 4/0 vote.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made around the table. Robert Harris, III, is the Economic Development Coordinator, recently hired and has offered to assist the department with the Environmental Commission.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Chair DeMars had one addition to the Minutes. She asked that a d be placed after RCSWCD, which was missing. Dick Huston made a motion, seconded by Lee Nordmeyer to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried on a 4/0 vote.

4. Items for Discussion

A. Member shifting to advisory

Debie Graham recently moved to Northfield and is ineligible to remain on the board.

She has agreed to step back into an advisory role. The board's consensus is to have the City Clerk, Heather Slechta, advertise for more members. Cynthia Diessner is out for a total of 10 months and Delia Denis is going back to school. We have received a resignation letter from Debie and Robert Harris, III will contact Ms. Denis for her resignation as well. After some discussion, the board members will also recommend that people in the community visit the city's website and sign up for the board as well.

B. CERTs grant -outreach planning

This matter is of some urgency since the end date is January 2025. Robert Harris asked the board to come forward and assist with assembling the packets. It was decided that he would send out an email and ask for up to three board members to help assemble the packets on a date to be determined but in the relatively near future.

C. Update on Adopt A Drain initiative

After much discussion, the board has decided to table this initiative until a later date.

D. Northfield Rotary Request - Energy Audits

Mark Abbott of the Northfield Rotary was present to explain the new program to electrify homes and possibly provide heat pumps for several families. He asked for collaboration on weatherization and is targeting possibly 50 families in Rice County's population at 80% below the AMI which on average are families that make less than \$80,000/yr. They do need funding and would appreciate financial assistance from the City of Faribault; however, they need help/volunteers.

5. Routine Business

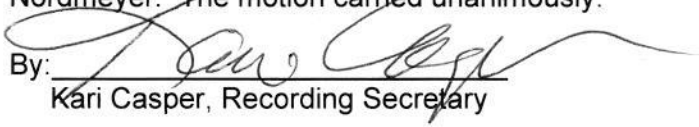
A. Announcements and Updates

i DOE Charging Smart "EV Ready" Community

David Wanberg explained that the state has chosen Faribault for an area where they would like to install fast-charging stations along the I-35W corridor. They have asked several businesses but no one has offered their space up to date. There is an NEVI (National Electronic Vehicle Infrastructure) event organized at the Chamber on September 4 from 10:00 to 12:00

6. Adjournment

Dick Huston brought a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m., seconded by Lee Nordmeyer. The motion carried unanimously.

By: 

Kari Casper, Recording Secretary