



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Steinkamp called the meeting to order at 6:00.

Roll Call: Commissioner Brown Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Anderegg, Commissioner Wasilowski and Chair Steinkamp

Absent: Commissioner Garcia

Staff: Peter Waldock and Kari Casper.

Guest: Lee Nordmeyer

2. Oath of Office.

Casper swore in Commissioners Brown and Anderegg.

3. Introduction of New and Existing Commission Members

Introductions took place of each member and person in the room. Wanberg reported that Garcia is resigning and we will have an open seat. It was learned that Commissioner Brown is outside the city limits. Commissioner Brown stated it was advertised as an "at-large" seat. The ordinance states that the board can only consist of two members that are outside city limits. Wanberg will consult with the Director on this appointment.

4. Approve January 24, 2022 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Huston and seconded by Commissioner Nesvold to approve the January 24, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion unanimously passed.

5. Items of Discussion

A. Adopt 2022 Work Plan

After much discussion, the board went with staff's suggestions to 1) promote an understanding of environmental issues and opportunities, awareness and understanding 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, and 5) respond to ongoing environmental issues and opportunities affecting the City.

With limited staff, the commission will need to coordinate our efforts with organizations like GROWS and the Rotary to get stuff done.

Will need to focus on the home energy squad visits. Need to get started on the application for Greencorps. Ms. Shapiro has been asked to set up a table at the Senior Center to talk about the home energy squad and hand out light bulbs. The board needs to get the community involved in all that stuff. Will need to work on the website as well. Staff encouraged the board to write articles for the Buckham Bulletin. Inserts for the water bills. Get youth involved.

Commissioner Brown asked about the cost of the Home Energy Squad's article in the Buckham Bulletin stating that it was \$100. Need to check/clarify that.

Wanberg then went on to say that the pollinators, natural landscaping and noxious plantings is very important to the commission. We haven't really done a lot on this but could focus on it this year. We could do an awards and recognition or seminar. Pollinator week Anderegg had something coming up. Nesvold stated that last year we had May proclaimed Pollinator Month. They had a display at Buckham Center. Nesvold mentioned that we should identify what they would like to coordinate with GROWS.

The third is Climate that we should focus on. Commissioner Brown asked about reducing carbon footprints. Wanberg stated that we are working on the downtown master plan – greening the downtown. There are 40% of our trees are ash trees that we will be losing. We have a climate adaption plan, climate plan for vulnerable populations but we don't have a climate action plan. Commissioner Steinkamp mentioned the Tree Plan.

B. Brief Review of City Climate Action Plan

The 100% Campaign recently released an Overview of City Climate Action Plan in Minnesota

C. Update on Home Energy Squad Visits

Faribault and 21 other Minnesota cities participated in a challenge to promote Home Energy Squad visits and energy efficiency rebates. When we joined the challenge, we did not have staff or a Minnesota GreenCorps member to help us promote the Home Energy Squad visits. As a result, Faribault had very few visits compared to other communities (see attached). With the help of our GreenCorps member and two grants, the City is making a concerted effort to promote visits and rebates in 2022. Hopefully, we will see a much greater increase in visits this year. We will have brief discussions about the lesson learned from this program.

D. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2022

The Commission must elect a chair and vice chair for 2022. Roger Steinkamp is the current chair and is eligible to continue as chair if he and the Commission desire it. Dan Behrens served as the vice chair in 2021, but his term expired and he chose not to continue on the Commission. Therefore, the Commission must elect a new vice chair.

Commissioner Huston nominated Commissioner Nesvold; however, she declined the seat. Commissioner Nesvold then nominated Commissioner Huston who stated he would accept. Commissioner Nesvold made a motion to nominate Commissioner Huston which was then seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Next was up for the seat of Vice Chair. Commissioner Steinkamp suggested the role of Vice move into the Chair in the future. Wouldn't work for this year since the Vice is no longer on the Commission. Commissioner Wasilowski then stepped up to the plate and nominated himself as Vice Chair.

6. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

The Commission should be aware of the following:

- The annual conference of Minnesota environmental commissions is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Ridgedale Public Library in Minnetonka. All commissioners are encouraged to attend this conference. At a minimum, it would be good to have at least one commissioner in attendance.
- GreenStep Cities will conduct two meetings in March to help communities address climate change. If you are interested in learning more, contact David Wanberg.
- GreenStep Cities will conduct a Compost and Yard Waste program from 9:00 a.m. to noon on April 20.
- Earth Day is Friday, April 22.
- Arbor Day is Friday, April 29.
- Pollinator Week is June 20-26.
- Minnesota GreenCorps applications are due March 22.

7. Adjournment.

Commissioner Steinkamp brought a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Nesvold at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 28, 2022

by: 
Karl Casper, Recording Secretary