

Community Environmental Advisory Commission Agenda

Regular Meeting
March 17, 2021 - 05:00 PM
Online Meeting

Members in attendance: Max Dalton, Indigo Davitt- Liu, Mark Dhennin, Tess Dornfeld, Mathew Douglas-May, Sandy Fazeli, Lauren Fleming, LesLee Jackson, Anna Johnson, Taya Lopez, Barbara Lunde, Nicholas Minderman, Erin Niehoff, Jaqueline Zepeda (Quorum - 10)

Members not in attendance: Senbeta Ayansa, Divine Islam, Namera Jorgo,

Staff: Kim Havey, Joseph Bernard, Stacy Miller

Guests: Sean Gosiewski, Program Director, Resilient Cities & Communities

Call To Order

1. Roll Call.

Chair Niehoff called meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Director Havey went over MS Teams functionality and took roll call, with 14 members present, 3 members not present.

2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Acceptance of minutes for the [February 17, 2021 Community Environmental Advisory Commission meeting](#)

A motion made by Commissioner Fazelli and seconded by Commissioner Lunde to accept the minutes and agenda with an amendment to move the St. Anthony Falls disposition plan from “Announcements” to “Discussion”.

Consent

Land Acknowledgement: As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, it is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this commission, and we honor it as we begin our meeting. We now open this space to discuss ways in which we can support Indigenous people in our community.

Discussion:

St. Anthony Falls Disposition Plan

In recent weeks, the Army Corps of Engineers declared its intention to seek a new owner for the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. Some commissioners are concerned about impacts to the river and the water supply for Twin Cities residents if ownership is conveyed to a private corporation. A commissioner offered additional information [here](#) from Friends of the Mississippi River.

Commissioners discussed the merits and concerns related to potential end uses for the Lock and Dam. The initial public comment deadline is tomorrow, March 18th and the Commission decided

not to comment as a group but encouraged individual members to consider participating in the comment opportunity.

Chair Niehoff asked if there was interest in learning more at future meetings and there was agreement that this topic is of interest. Suggestions for possible presenters included the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Minneapolis and Saint Paul Water utilities, Friends of Mississippi River, Friends of the Falls, NACDI, MPRB.

Roof Depot Environmental Assessment Worksheet Comment Period

Director Havey gave an update on the Roof Depot site, home to the Hiawatha Public Works expansion project. The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) is available, and the City Community Planning and Economic Development Department is taking comments through March 25, extended from March 8. The full EAW and instructions on how to comment can be found [here](#). Director Havey submitted a letter from CEAC to the EQB about the EAW.

Some members were disappointed that CEAC was not notified by Public Works about the comment opportunity since CEAC had requested updates on the Transportation Management Plan associated with the site.

Southside Green Zone comments on the EAW were reviewed. Commissioners discussed signing on to the Southside Green Zone letter before deciding to submit a letter expressing support for the Southside Green Zone Council's position. Commissioner Minderman agreed to draft a short letter for the Commission's review and consideration before adjourning.

Stormwater Ordinance

The approved letter to Council on the Stormwater Ordinance for Projects can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-xwH1NQBs3tTGt3NEbxkPeNlndauXihWqgf8sD4Ec2E/edit?usp=sharing>.

Guest Sean Gosiewski, Program Director for Resilient Cities & Communities, offered an update about the stormwater ordinance and Friends of Hiawatha. He also shared information about a request to Hennepin County to begin regulating trash. Waiting for the Park Board before moving ahead.

It was noted that there are near-term and longer-term concerns associated with the stormwater ordinance. A request made to review and discuss longer-term issues in a future meeting.

Presentation

Travel Demand Management, Parking and EV Charging Ordinance Changes Joseph Bernard, Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED)

Prompting questions for CEAC included:

Are the TDM strategies sufficiently geared toward addressing mode-split and GHG emissions?

Are the right TDM strategies prioritized with more points awarded?

What other TDM strategies should be considered?

Are the thresholds and requirements for EV Charging appropriate?

Are there specific uses that staff should pay special attention to in terms of vehicle parking maximums and bike parking requirements?

Joe Bernard presented on parking policy changes being considered relating to the Minneapolis 2040 plan and the City's Climate Action Plan.

- Parking is expensive and incentivizes car use; this plan would encourage walking and efficient use of land.
- There are areas of the City that does not have a parking space requirement.
- The proposal will eliminate parking requirements citywide and more restrictive maximum limits will be adopted citywide while bicycle parking requirements will increase
- Electric Vehicle-Readiness requirements are being considered where there is parking to encourage electric vehicle adoption, but staff has concerns about cost impacts on under-resourced residents.
- The City plans to de-emphasize traffic studies going forward
- An ordinance may be adopted in May for implementation in January 2022.
 - It would include a point system for developers to follow to accomplish the City's goals of reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

Q: Do the requirements apply only to new developments?

A: Yes, along with significant renovation.

Q: Will this increase rent for affordable housing residents?

A: Yes, staff is working with affordable housing experts; but we hope to have consistent requirements citywide.

Q: Could the City require landlords not to raise rent associated with EV charging?

A: No.

Q: How did you arrive at a 10% requirement for parking spaces to include Level 2 charging; is 10% high enough over the life of the building or will this level be re-evaluated on a schedule?

A: Several cities with EV readiness requirements have requirements between 5 and 20%. No schedule is planned for updates.

Q: Why is there an EV charging readiness exemption drawn at fewer than 10 units?

A: Many of smaller buildings don't have parking at all.

Q: How would city respond to request for variance?

A: Variances are difficult to obtain generally.

Commissioner Minderman reported on a study that identified lack of access to EV charging as a barrier to driving an EV and will share the report with Joe for staff review.

Q: Will you require addition of solar to EV charging, and who will do the installation for the chargers?

A: These are for private development on private property and will be responsibility of the property developer and owner. There won't be a solar requirement as part of this policy.

Q: Is there a proposed drop off and loading zone requirement for rideshare users?

A: Staff have decided to remove this requirement so as not to encourage heavy reliance on ridesharing.

Commissioners decided not to submit further comments on the plan as the elements of the plan are largely consistent with CEAC's previous recommendations.

Joe offered that more information is at: <https://minneapolis2040.com/implementation/parking-loading-and-mobility-regulations/>

New Business

Climate Action Plan

The Commission decided that the [Minneapolis Climate Action Plan](#) would be the focus of the April meeting since time was limited this evening. Director Havey will provide an overview of the current Climate Action Plan at this meeting.

Some questions that would help the City identify priority areas for the Climate plan with input from CEAC include:

- a. What should be added to the plan that's not addressed in the current plan?
- b. What should our emissions goal be? Net Carbon Neutral? Something else?
- c. How can we more effectively center equity and environmental justice?
- d. How should CEAC and other community-based groups be engaged in the plan development?
- e. What metrics or criteria should we use to measure Climate Equity, i.e. greenhouse gas emissions, community health?
- f. How should adaptation and mitigation fit into the plan?

Roof Depot

Commissioners reviewed and revised a draft letter to the City Planning Staff and copying City Council commenting on the Roof Depot Environmental Assessment Worksheet due next week. The letter supports the positions expressed by the Southside Green Zone Council, MN Center for Environmental Advocacy, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, Move Minnesota, and Smiley's Clinic.

A motion was made by Commissioner Minderman and seconded by Commissioner Fazeli to approve sending the letter to the City.

Discussion continued and a vote was taken unanimously approving the letter for submission.

Announcements

The City of [Minneapolis Sustainability website](#) has been updated into a new format this week. There's a new structure for easier browsing and searching. While it is still a work in progress, staff would appreciate your suggestions and can respond to questions.

Due to the resignation of two CEAC commissioners, Manu Lewis, and Abishu Woge, staff will be reviewing applications that were submitted in October 2020. These applications are valid for one year from the closing of the application period.

A call with Hennepin County Board Chair Marion Greene on City/County Climate Action Opportunities will be held Friday, March 19, 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm by Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/5156358735?pwd=K1FMVGdjVHJvVlc5UHhDSHpWNnhjUT09>

Meeting ID: 515 635 8735 Passcode: 392261

- [Draft Agenda](#) centers on exploring possible areas of city/county collaborative planning and action based on Hennepin County's draft climate action plan and feedback on the climate action plan (

Resources: [http://rccmn.co/hennepin-communities/Draft Hennepin Co. Climate Action Plan](http://rccmn.co/hennepin-communities/Draft-Hennepin-Co.-Climate-Action-Plan)
[RCC's Sign On Letter of Support](#) and [detailed suggestions 3/3/21](#)
Individual City Letters and the Sierra Club Sign on Letters <http://rccmn.co/topics/letters-supporting-hennepin-county-climate-action/>

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Notice:

A portion of this meeting may be closed to the public pursuant to MN Statutes Section 13D.03 or 13D.05.

Next Community Environmental Advisory Commission meeting: April 21, 2021 from 5-7 PM

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the City Coordinator's Office at 612-673-2563 or e-mail sustainability@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.