

1. 1 1-25-2021 ENV Agenda

Documents:

[2021.01.25 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. 2. 12-28-2020 Meeting Minutes

Documents:

[2020.12.28 ENV MEETING MINUTES.PDF](#)

3. 3. Finalize 2021 Work Plan And Prepare For Meeting With City Council

Documents:

[3. FINALIZE 2021 WORK PLAN AND PREPARE FOR MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL.PDF](#)

4. 4. Finalize Climate Adaptation Plan

Documents:

[4. FINALIZE CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN.PDF](#)

5. 5. Overview Of Solar Group Buy Program

Documents:

[5. OVERVIEW OF SOLAR GROUP BUY PROGRAM.PDF](#)

6. 6. Feedback On Idea Brief For U Of M Regional Sustainability Development Partnership

Documents:

[6. FEEDBACK ON IDEA BRIEF FOR U OF M REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP.PDF](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 provides that a meeting of a public body may be conducted via telephone or other electronic means if meeting in a public location is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or declared emergency. Due to the declared health pandemic, this meeting of the Environmental Commission will be held through electronic means, rather than in-person.

You may participate in this meeting by joining the following videoconference or by calling the following telephone number at the scheduled date and time of the meeting:

1. *Via Videoconference:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83111720560?pwd=S1dualoyZmRkdj8xTVovTVNYbkIBZz09> **Meeting ID:** 831 1172 0560 **Passcode:** 455879

(Note: Your computer should have a camera and a microphone. However, if you do not have a microphone and camera, you can still view the meeting on your computer and participate in the conversation via a telephone.

2. **Via Telephone:** 1-312-626-6799 **Meeting ID:** 831 1172 0560 **Passcode:** 455879

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
2. Approve December 28, 2020 Minutes
3. Review 2021 Work Plan and Prepare for Meeting with City Council
 - A. Finalize Concise Work Plan to Review with City Council in February
 - B. Brief Overview of the Status of the Environmental Commission Handbook and Detailed Work Plan
 - C. Identify Discussion Items for Joint City Council and Environmental Commission Meeting in February
4. Finalize Comments on the Draft Climate Adaptation Plan
5. Overview of Solar Group Buy Program and Involvement of Interested Environmental Commission Members on an Advisory Committee
6. Feedback on Idea Brief for U of M Regional Sustainability Development Partnership
7. Routine Business (verbal update – no reports)
 - A. Announcements and Updates
 - City Council Appointment of New Environmental Commission

Members – January 26

- Joint Council/Environmental Commission Introductions and Work Session – Tentatively Scheduled for February 16
- Environmental Commission Annual Meeting including Election of Chair and Vice-Chair – February 22
- Tentative Zoom Meeting with City Attorney and Potentially Other Commissions to Review Meeting Protocols – February
- Status of Potential Solar Array at the City Water Plant and the Status of the City’s Community Solar Garden Subscriptions
- Status of the Installation of Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and Grant Application for Additional Charging Stations
- Upcoming Webinars
- Announcements and Updates from Commissioners

B. Identify Agenda Items for February 22 Meeting (verbal update – no report)

- Introduction of New Environmental Commission Members
- Finalize Recommendation on Natural Landscaping Ordinance Amendments
- Annual Meeting – Election of Officers

C. Recognition and Thanks for Chuck Ackman and Tom Boevers’ Service on the Environmental Commission

8. Adjourn

Please contact the Department of Community and Economic Development at 507-334-0100 if you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 provides that a meeting of a public body may be conducted via telephone or other electronic means if meeting in a public location is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or declared emergency. Due to the declared health pandemic, this meeting of the Environmental Commission held this meeting through electronic means, rather than in-person.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call.

Chair, Roger Steinkamp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Present: Commissioner Ackman, Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Boevers, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold and Chair Steinkamp.

2. Approve November 23, 2020 Minutes.

A motion was made by Nesvold and seconded by Boevers to approve the November 23, 2020 meeting minutes as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Commissioner Ackman, Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Boevers, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold and Chair Steinkamp.

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

3. Items of Discussion

A. Review and Comment on Energy Initiatives

Wanberg provided a brief overview stating that there are discussions about collaborating with Northfield in this initiative – no action taken on this matter.

B. Review and Comment on Draft Climate Adaptation Plan.

Wanberg presented a link to this document in his memo stating that the

this matter will be discussed by the Council in the near future. The Commissioners felt this to be a very important issue and asked for more time to review. Wanberg stated that he will resend the link and we can discuss this at the next meeting again. Wanberg stated that the Commission will be having a Joint Committee Meeting in the near future with the Council to discuss this and the work plan as well. No action taken at this time.

C. Finalize Environmental Commission Work Plan for 2021.

Chair Steinkamp headed this discussion in follow-up to his proposed Work Plan presented from the last meeting. At this meeting he began going over each subject matter that the members would like to touch on and asked them for their input on a timeline as to when each should be discussed. Chair Steinkamp was able to get through the majority and will bring this timeline back at the next meeting on January 25th.

Commissioner Huston left the meeting at 7:45.

3. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

One person has submitted an application. The two outgoing members' last meeting will be January 25th as their term is up on the 31st. It was suggested that the ENV ask two non-voting members, perhaps students for their input to commission. The Commission was asked to encourage others to apply for a position on the Commission.

The Commission also stressed an interest in using Facebook and the Website to get information about the Commission. Diessner asked that we put the actual meeting dates on the page of the Commission.

B. Identify Agenda Items for January 25th meeting - continue to work on the 2021 Work Plan.

5. Adjournment (majority vote by roll call)

A motion was made by Ackman and seconded by Behrens to adjourn.

Aye: Commissioner Ackman, Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Boevers, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Nesvold and Chair Steinkamp.

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 6/0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 28, 2020

By: _____
Kari Casper



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission

THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director

FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner

MEETING DATE: January 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Finalize 2021 Work Plan and Prepare for Meeting with City Council

Over the past several months, the Environmental Commission has strived to develop a work plan for 2021. The Commission identified many great ideas, but it is now time to simplify the plan and review it with the City Council. Based on the Environmental Commission's input, the City Planner prepared a one-page outline of potential actions the Commission could take in 2021 (see attached). This outline does not include all of the Commission's ideas, but the Commission should view the work plan as a general guide. The Commission can update the work plan based on Council direction and other issues and opportunities that may arise during 2021. The Commission should provide feedback on the attached work plan. However, the Commission should strive to have a concise work plan to review with the Council.

Chair Steinkamp has worked diligently on a draft Environmental Commission Handbook that includes information on the 2021 work plan. Chair Steinkamp will provide a brief update on the handbook. However, the Commission will not take time at this meeting to review the handbook.

The City Administrator has tentatively scheduled a meeting between the Environmental Commission and the City Council for February 16 at 6:00 pm. The Council is resuming in-person meetings starting in February. Therefore, we should discuss if the Environmental Commission wants to meet with the Council in-person, or if we should try to arrange to have an online option. Also, beyond the 2021 work plan, the Commission should identify any items it wishes to discuss with the Council so that City Staff can work those discussion items into the meeting agenda.

Attachments:

- Draft 2021 Environmental Commission Work Plan

DRAFT 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Subject to review and comment from the Faribault City Council

The following outlines actions the Environmental Commission could take in 2021. The Environmental Commission will coordinate with the City Council to refine and prioritize the actions.

1. Promote Public Awareness and Understanding of Environmental Issues and Opportunities.

Possible actions by the Environmental Commission include the following:

- A. Coordinate with others to help organize and/or promote environmental events, such as Earth Day events and pollinator seminars.
- B. Publicize environmental issues and opportunities through various means, including the City's website, utility bill inserts, articles in the Buckham Bulletin, and webinars.
- C. Encourage broad participation in environmental issues by coordinating with youth and others who are underrepresented in the City's environmental issues. Coordinate with other cities in southeast Minnesota to engage typically underrepresented groups in environmental planning.
- D. Coordinate with others to help organize and/or promote community service efforts related to the environment, such as control of noxious weeds and trash clean-up.

2. Recommend Ordinance Amendments related to the Environment.

Suggested ordinance amendments include the following:

- A. Recommend amendments to the natural landscaping and yard maintenance ordinances.
- B. Recommend a tree preservation and replacement ordinance.
- C. Prepare other ordinance amendments as directed by the City Council.

3. Review and Recommend Approval of Plans related to the Environment.

- A. Recommend approval of Faribault's Climate Adaptation Plan.
- B. Provide direction on environmental strategies related to Journey to 2040 plans.
- C. Prepare a proposal to update the City's Natural Resources Plan in 2022.
- D. Review and provide comments on environmental reviews (EAWs and AUARs) if the need arises.

4. Review City progress on GreenStep Cities and Xcel's Partners in Energy Program and implement actions as feasible.



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: January 25, 2021
SUBJECT: Finalize Comments of Draft Climate Adaptation Plan

As the Environmental Commission is aware, a committee has been working on a Climate Adaptation Plan for Faribault. The draft plan was completed in December 2020. The City Planner will send the draft plan to Commission members via email.

Several people on the Environmental Commission participated in the development of the draft plan. The City Planner does intend to review the plan with the Environmental Commission in detail. However, if Commission members have comments, please be prepared to share them with the Commission.

Chair Steinkamp has suggested that we should have a public presentation of the plan. The Commission should provide comments or suggestions about how to promote the plan to the Council and the public.



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission

THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development
Director

FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner

MEETING DATE: January 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Overview of Solar Group Buy Program

At the December Environmental Commission meeting, the City Planner provided a brief overview of a Solar Group Buy Program that Faribault would coordinate with Northfield. Assuming the Council approves Faribault's participation in the program, the program is requesting that Faribault recruit members who could meet periodically to provide feedback on the program. Like the Climate Adaptation committee, this is an opportunity for Environmental Commission members to get involved in environmental issues.

The City Planner will answer questions about the program and encourage commission members to serve on an advisory committee for a limited time.



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission

THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director

FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner

MEETING DATE: January 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Feedback on Idea Brief for U of M Regional Sustainability Development Partnership

The City of Faribault was asked if it is interested in participating a project that would help provide opportunities for groups of people who are typically underrepresented in environmental planning efforts. Multiple cities in southeast Minnesota intend to submit a joint idea brief to the University of Minnesota Regional Development Partnership program for their help in this effort.

All parties have only had very preliminary discussions on this topic. The City Planner has some suggestions for this effort and how the Environmental Commission could be involved in the effort. The Planner will provide the Commission with a brief overview and solicit initial feedback from the Commission.