



## 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, JANUARY 25, 2021**

**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 Boevers, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold and Chair Steinkamp.

Absent: Commissioner Behrens

2. Approve December 28, 2020 Minutes.

A motion was made by Nesvold and seconded by Huston to approve the December 28, 2020 meeting minutes as written.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 6/0 vote.

3. Items of Discussion – 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.

After a short discussion, the members agreed that the concise plan was sufficient to submit to the council for the joint committee meeting tentatively set for February 16<sup>th</sup>. Staff advised that they will only have a short time to present what they would like to make recommendations on and it was advised not to present a power point and to just be prepared for a short discussion.

#### 4. Finalize Comments on the Draft Climate Adaptation Plan

Members felt that that plan was very good. Wanberg did indicate that the author may be willing to make a presentation on the Plan and that the next step needs to be getting it out to the public.

#### 5. Overview of Solar Group Buy Program and Involvement of Interested Environmental Commission Members on an Advisory Committee.

Wanberg stated that he is looking for an advisory committee to get community outreach to see if people might be interested. Possibly hold educational meetings. Wanberg wanted to meet later this week and Steinkamp and Diessner said they might be interested.

#### 6. Feedback on Idea Brief for U of M Regional Sustainability Development Partnership

Wanberg was approached by surrounding communities to collaborate on this area. Wanberg made the suggestion of using agriculture, food and possibly music to pull people together. He stated communities such as Rochester, Northfield and Winona are participating. This potential plan would be due by February 11<sup>th</sup>. Steinkamp, Nesvold and Diessner stated they might be interested in that.

#### 7. Routine Business (verbal update – no reports)

##### A. Announcements and Updates

- City Council Appointment of New Environmental Commission Members – January 26<sup>th</sup>
- 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

Wanberg stated that council will review two application for the ENV Commission

presented by Claudia Garcia and Sonny Woslowski who may be approved to serve on the board by next meeting. The next meeting will be on 2/22 and there will be an election of officers at that meeting. He stated that in the past the lawyers have met with the various boards to discuss items such as the Open Meeting Laws and that potential meeting is in the process of being set up. As for the solar array at the water plant, the Legislature extended the tax credits another two years and so the pressure is off to get that in right away. There are 3 electrical charging stations to be put in the parking lot where the old Knight's of Columbus was; one of which will be a rapid charger. These are being paid for by a grant. The City is applying for another grant to possibly get one at City Hall. Wanberg updated everyone on some potential webinars coming up: the Greenstep Cities next webinar will be on soil health and is set for February 17. There is another on Urban Trees on 4/21 and I think he said on pollinators on 5/19. There are also Tree City USA webinars on 2/10, 2/17 and 2/24. Wanberg will get this information on our website soon.

- B. Identify Agenda Items for February 22 Meeting (verbal update – no reports)
- Introduction of New Environmental Commission Members
  - Finalize Recommendation on Natural Landscaping Ordinance Amendments
  - Annual Meeting – Election of Officers

Wanberg stated that the agenda will consist of new members, natural landscape ordinance; annual meeting and election of officers for 2/22.

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

This is Ackman and Boevers' last meeting and everyone was grateful that they served on the board.

8. Adjournment (majority vote by roll call)

A motion was made by Ackman and seconded by Boevers to adjourn at 7:06.

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

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 6/0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 26, 2021

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary