



## 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, FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

**6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Roll Call: Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Wasilowski and Chair Steinkamp.

2. Meeting Protocols

Wanberg went over the meeting protocols as presented in the packet and asked if anyone had any additions or corrections, in particular to Commissioner Wasilowski and he stated that he did not.

3. Introduction of Environmental Commission Members and City Staff

Chair Steinkamp asked to go around and introduce each member and tell a little of why they are on the board. Started with Commissioner Huston who stated that he was on the commission because he is concerned about water. He lives on a farm of about 150 acres that he has restored to prairie land. Commissioner Diessner is interested in education and community involvement and participation. Commissioner Behrens is also concerned about water quality and the term of that. Former city employee for over twenty years but hasn't been employed there for about twenty years. Engineer developer and contractor and wants to help protect the environment and keep people involved. Commissioner Nesvold stated that she feels the same at Commissioner Diessner, she is a former high school science teacher and believes in educating people. She still wants to get high school students involved as well. Commissioner Garcia wanted to join the commission for many reason; how we treat the Earth and wants to help people in Faribault and globally as well. Commissioner Wasilowski stated that he grew up poor and budgeting was difficult and he wanted to save money by being green. He wanted to learn about savings, water use. He drives hybrids and his house is complete solar and he wants to see more

neighbors follow suit. Increase awareness locally. Wanberg went next as the City Planner for about 7 or 8 years and prior to that he was a consultant, architect and landscape architect. Has a passion for sustainability. Works as a liaison for the Commission. Kari Casper went next stating that she is the admin assistant in Community & Economic Development department and is the recording secretary. Chair Steinkamp taught high school, here, Duluth, Little Falls and different regions of MN. He ran a business making sheep cheese for 10 years and was at the State Fair. He also spent the majority of the last 25 years overseas, Africa, Middle East, Europe and a little bit in Asia. He got his eyes opened up a little bit traveling around. Now he's been living in Faribault since 2002; but the last 2.5 years full time. He is passionate about the environment and hopefully can make some contributions to the community in that way.

#### 4. Approve January 25, 2021 Minutes

A motion was made by Nesvold and seconded by Huston to approve the January 25, 2021 meeting minutes as written.

Roll Call: Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, and Chair Steinkamp.

Nay: None

Motion carried on 6/1 vote with Wasilowski abstaining since he was not present at the meeting.

#### 5. Annual Meeting Actions

##### A. Election of Officers

Chair Steinkamp began by turning the matter over to Wanberg to introduce the process. Wanberg stated that there is no term limit on the Chair and suggested that Steinkamp get a feel for what the commission might want to do. Commissioner Behrens stated that Steinkamp has put many hours in at Chair and would like to stay consistent with what we currently have.

A motion was made by Commissioner Huston and seconded by Commissioner Nesvold to retain Chair Steinkamp as Chair and Commissioner Behrens as Vice Chair. No discussion to follow.

Roll Call: Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, and Commissioner Wasilowski.

Nay: None.

Motion carried on a 6/1 with Chair Steinkamp abstaining.

##### B. Adopt 2021 Work Plan

Chair Steinkamp reminded everyone that the proposed work plan was in the packet. There is enough work in there to keep us busy for the year. Nesvold had a question under public awareness; she said that when Commission Ackman was here he stated that we would have to ask the Council to add high school students. Commissioner Garcia agrees with Commissioner Nesvold to have high school students included and act like commissioners in training. She commented that they may have good ideas and lets them get involved. Commissioner Diessner asked if we should bring this up with the City Council when they meet. Wanberg responded by stating that it would be appropriate. Steinkamp has reached out to the High School and BA and FFA. Also made the suggestion that the College here is another source of inspiration. The Chair asked if anyone knows anyone, boys scouts, girl scouts, 4H to get involved. Chair Steinkamp suggested submit this to the Council and take it up when they meet at the work session meeting.

A motion was made by Huston and seconded by Nesvold to recommend approval for the 2021 Work Plan for the Environmental Commission written.

Roll Call: Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Wasilowski and Chair Steinkamp.

Motion carried on 7/0 vote.

Chair Steinkamp wanted to add if there were any comments on the handbook that he created to let him know. He suggested that the commission use it as a backup document and maybe call it the Road Map which elaborates everything we talked about for this year or if we take them up next year. Would be a good archive.

## 6. Items for Discussion

### A. Review and Recommend Council Approval of Faribault Climate Adaptation Plan

Chair Steinkamp asked if we would use a recommended resolution to take to Council? Wanberg stated yes and he would looking for a motion to recommend approval to the Council. Wanberg then stated he could give a brief overview. How are we addressing climate change for vulnerable populations? This is not the plan, it's the precursor to the Climate Adaptation Plan. The Fire Chief Dienst was identified has assisting with the study. It also looked at the climate adaption framework, not a plan. So what this plan, 15 people were on the plan, looked at from various standpoint, health and safety, extreme weather, air quality, flooding and water quality heat island greenspace and ecosystem local food and agricultural climate economy adaptation capacity. The Major topic of other cities – these were the main topics. In the group each took 2 or 3 and came back. One example is extreme weather. A survey was done around the area – asked a number of questions. About 2/3 were either very concerned or extremely concerned. Under that a number of major goals or strategies looked at. Increasing weather events, increasing

housing burdens, increasing energy burdens, extreme temperatures. Example, down south the event that occurred had huge impact on energy (winter storm in Texas). From this, they developed extreme weather priority strategies, 1) enhanced city operation – emergency response – equitable hazard mitigation – map infrastructure vulnerabilities – multi-use public buildings 2) address health impact – emergency kits 3) Enhanced resilience planning – lower dependence on outside energy sources 4) increase resilience of natural system – native landscapes, woodland preservation, etc.

A City of Faribault CAP Matrix was developed. Question is, how do we implement it? If we pass this, could bring it to council. Commissioner Garcia asked who were the vulnerable populations in the study? Wanberg stated that the young and elderly are high, at risk, low income, English as not the first language, living conditions, manufactured home communities and then people that live in flood plains. There were a variety of populations. Wasilowski stated that he is in full support but it seems there is a moderate and more aggressive plan. Asked if the plan doesn't work do they go to a more aggressive plan? Wanberg stated that high priorities versus moderate and low priority. It's a little hard to tell if it's aggressive enough. Wanberg stated that it always has a balance, a number of people think we are at a critical state right now and we have to be aggressive. Wanberg talked about the balance being between development and aggressive stance on climate control. Behrens asked about timeline for this plan. When does it come back if we need to change the aggressiveness. Wanberg's intention is to go to a council work session in March. Implementation – it's a general plan. Identify high priorities, woodland preservation, tree canopy – how do we implement this plan?

A motion was made by Huston and seconded by Wasilowski to recommend for approval to the Council of the Climate Adaptation Plan as presented.

Roll Call: Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Wasilowski and Chair Steinkamp.

Motion carried on 7/0 vote.

- B. Recommend Council Approval for the City to Apply to Host a Minnesota Green Corps Member

Wanberg suggested that he prepare the application and that maybe two or three commissioners review and comment on it before it goes to Council. They discussed that the main focus area would be on Community Outreach. The application is due by March 16<sup>th</sup>. Short timeline.

A motion was brought by Commissioner Huston to follow through with the application process for GreenCorps and focus on the Community Readiness and Outreach seconded by Commissioner Wasilowski.

Roll Call: Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Wasilowski and Chair Steinkamp.

Both Chair Steinkamp and Commissioner Diessner agreed to review and comment. Commissioner Behrens reminded to keep two is the limit since we don't want to disrupt the open meeting law.

Motion carried on 7/0 vote.

## 7. Routine Business

### A. Announcements and Updates

- Submitted grant application for electric vehicle charging station.

Received a grant last year. DC charger and dual head level 2. Should be in soon; was supposed to be last fall. Did submit for another level 2 charger but chances of getting this are thin.

- Submitted idea brief to University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership to promote equity in the City's environmental planning efforts.

Wanberg did submit and idea brief – looking at doing work with cohorts of southern cities in particular doing work, outreach, particular groups not in government.

- Held kick-off meeting for the Faribault/Northfield/Rice County Solar Group Buy Program.

That first meeting is out of the way. Interested to hear that Commissioner Wasilowski's house is completely on solar. Asked if anyone wants to serve on a committee for 8 hours a month to help publicize on presentations.

- Reschedule the Environmental Commission/City Council work session.

Delay again due to other issues. Perhaps the second meeting in March, March 16<sup>th</sup> is a possible. Tuesday evening at 6:00- p.m.

### B. Identify Agenda Items for March 22, 2021 Meeting

- Property Maintenance and Natural Landscaping Ordinance

Taking a look at the this ordinance that we started last year. Need to shore that up and

put that up as a recommendation to the council for next meeting.

8. Adjourn

A motion was made by Nesvold and seconded by Garcia to adjourn at 7:15.

Roll Call: Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Wasilowski and Chair Steinkamp.

Motion carried on a 7/0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 23, 2021

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