



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, MAY 24, 2021

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Steinkamp called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Wasilowski.

2. Approve April 26, 2021 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Huston and seconded by Commissioner Nesvold to approve the April 26, 2021 meeting minutes as written.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 5/0 vote.

Chair Steinkamp would like to move item 3C to the top and the follow the rest of the agenda.

Commissioner Behrens made a motion to amend the agenda to move 3C to be discussed first and Commissioner Nesvold seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 5/0 vote.

3. Items for Discussion

C. Next Steps on Creating Commission Project Teams

Chair Steinkamp began the presentation stating that it would be easier to have teams to do research and to bring their work to City Staff. Wanberg had a discussion with the Director of Community and Economic Development and stated that she would prefer to keep it to a specific project rather than have multiple committees going out at the same time. Keep it focused i.e. tree preservation and then move on. Her suggestion does mean that people cannot work on other projects. Behrens stated that he appreciated the concept and had a few questions, one being whether they needed to invite the public and Wanberg responded by stating no. Nesvold talked about community gardens and that is in the works – can that be added as another subject. Wanberg did speak with our parks director and it would be worth having a conversation with him about this. Wanberg mentioned that he is aware of an interesting project involving the new food shelf that perhaps the environmental commission could discuss. Chair Steinkamp mentioned working with the Rotary and Commissioner Huston stated that the Rotary is going to have a community garden with the help of the Park Director, Paul Peanasky and will have room for about 25 and are still taking signups. Commissioner Huston also mentioned that Saturday and the following Thursday they are going to continue to do the work that they've been working on and people could help out in that way. They will be out there on Saturday from 10-3 and Thur. from 3 to 7. Chair Steinkamp suggested that maybe they could promote the subjects on website and Facebook, etc. Nesvold wanted to clarify how the committees get created. Steinkamp wants a motion for each committee.

Chair asked to move on this at the end or put on next month's agenda.

A. Introduction to Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinances

City does not have a forester but does have someone with the City that takes a look at the trees. While creating this Commission the City Administrator made the suggestion that the Commission work on created an ordinance in this regard. Wanberg stated that some cities are very detailed on their ordinance. Some use caliper size as a factor in replacement. Diessner asked to get copies of programs that other communities have in place. Wanberg stated that in Montamedia they limit replacement it to subdivisions and didn't go by caliper inches. Chair Steinkamp talked about a tree inventory. Wanberg reminded that we do not have a forester or someone to enforce this. Nesvold asked if we had somewhere else to put the trees that we would require to replace in case they were cut down. Wanberg said yes the City does. Steinkamp again stated that

the City needs an assessment in case there are too many trees. Commissioner Huston suggested that we create a subcommittee on this subject. Behrens then stated that we are taking about two separate subjects preservation and then replacement. Behrens asked if it was about identifying areas that we could be more concerned about areas or a tree on a personal lot. Diessner suggested that the committee look to cities that are comparable in size and see what they have.

Nesvold made a motion to form a tree ordinance committee and that it look into other similar cities ordinances and come back at the next meeting. Huston seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 5/0 vote.

Steinkamp, Nesvold and Commissioner Diessner and she felt that it would be beneficial in land owners might be involved. Huston said talk to DNR forester in town and they might be helpful.

B. Clarification of the Open Meeting Law

Chair Steinkamp stated that the Commission should communicate with the staff to get information on to the Commission. Another topic was that when you are conveying information to the public, you cannot represent the Commission's views but that they are your own personal views. Serial email chains are not good. Social media i.e. Facebook, there may be opportunities to be put out there. Encouraged to review the YouTube video of the attorney talking. Talked about a preliminary agenda sooner and then more definitive one later.

D. Future Meetings in response to the loosening of COVID Restrictions

Commissioner Huston would prefer in person meeting. Behrens prefers in person meetings. Nesvold prefers in person. Diessner prefers Zoom and is agreeable either way. Steinkamp asked about hybrid. Behrens asked that City Staff reach out to the other two and pick a meeting style appropriate for next meeting.

4. Routine Business

There were no announcements and updates.

A. Agenda Items for June 28, 2021 Meeting

Subcommittee to come back with information on tree

5. Adjourn

A motion was made by Commissioner Huston and seconded by Commissioner Behrens to adjourn at 7:23 pm

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

Motion carried on a 5/0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 24, 2021

By: _____
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary