

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: July 15, 2014
TIME: 4:00 p.m.
PRESENT: Hoffman, Hall, Meyer and Dr. Nosek
STAFF: Carlos Espinosa, Assistant City Planner

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Committee Member Meyer motioned to approve the April 8, 2014 meeting notes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nosek, and upon vote it was approved unanimously.

Discussion of Air Quality per CASM Request

Steve Schild of CASM presented a document entitled "Why the City of Winona Needs Additional Air Monitoring." Mr. Schild stated that CASM's intent was simply to present the document for discussion at the meeting.

CASM member Jane Cowgill stated that the most important part of the document is the state's recommendations for monitoring at silica sand operation fence lines.

Dr. Nosek stated that while the recommendations are in-line with the CEQC's previous air monitoring recommendations, they are not enforceable by law. Dr. Nosek also stated that without a positive recommendation by the Planning Commission, it would be difficult for the CEQC to proceed with their air monitoring recommendations.

Mr. Espinosa stated that review of the CEQC's recommendations at a Council meeting would have to be initiated by the City Council.

Committee Member Hoffman pointed out that Council Member Eyden brought up air monitoring at a prior Council meeting during the Council concerns portion of the meeting.

Mr. Schild stated that he thought it would be beneficial for Council to review the topic of air monitoring.

CASM member Stewart Shaw asked if the CEQC supported CASM bringing the "Why the City of Winona Needs Additional Air Monitoring" document to the City Council. CASM members then asked CEQC members if they agreed with the content of the document.

Following discussion and questions about the content of the document, CASM member Steve Schild stated that the CEQC doesn't necessarily have to support the document, but instead could support CASMs efforts to put an air quality discussion item on the City Council's agenda.

Dr. Nosek made a motion stating that the CEQC supports the efforts of CASM to have their concerns and questions related to silica sand air monitoring heard as part of a City Council meeting. Committee Member Hoffman seconded the motion and upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Potential New CEQC Initiatives

Committee Member Hoffman stated that she had been in contact with Jennifer Anderson, a faculty member at WSU about light pollution in the City of Winona. Ms. Hoffman stated that perhaps Council would benefit from hearing Ms. Anderson's presentation on the subject. Dr. Nosek stated that he would talk to Ms. Anderson about her willingness to present to Council.

Other Business

Committee Member Meyer stated that she recently obtained a grant for a study of a community solar project in Winona. Ms. Meyer stated that she is working to find a potential location for the project. Ms. Meyer explained that the project needs a potential location and the support of the landowner in order to properly study the feasibility of the solar array.

Committee Member Hoffman stated that she'd like to discuss the potential for CD Corp to complete an EAW related their current CUP amendment request in front of the Board of Adjustment.

CASM member Schild stated that the Board of Adjustment meeting was the next day. Mr. Schild stated that he'd contacted Craig Affeldt at the MPCA regarding the request and he was unsure whether the project would trigger an EAW.

Mr. Espinosa stated that he was aware of the EAW question and was in contact with the City Attorney. Mr. Espinosa stated that there were no answers yet, but the Board would be discussing it the next day.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.