

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: June 24, 2013

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairperson Porter, Commissioners Boettcher, Buelow, Ballard, Davis, English, Olson, and Hahn

ABSENT: Commissioner Gromek

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant City Planner, Carlos Espinosa

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson Porter.

Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2013

The minutes for June 10, 2013 were approved without changes upon motion by Commissioner Olson and second by Commissioner Boettcher.

CEQC Air Quality Monitoring Recommendations

Assistant City Planner Carlos Espinosa summarized the agenda item and stated that in response to the CEQC's recommendations, staff proposes they be sent to the state's Silica Sand Technical Assistance Team for review and recommendation.

Chairperson Porter asked what information was presented to the CEQC. Mr. Espinosa responded that they were provided with information on the Planning Commission's actions related to air quality during the moratorium as well as results from recent air quality monitoring occurring in Wisconsin.

Commissioner English asked who would pay for the time spent by the state's Silica Sand Technical Assistance Team on Winona's potential request. Mr. Espinosa stated that the bill passed by the legislature dedicated funding to the team – so presumably the state would pay for it.

Commissioner Boettcher commented that the legislation passed by the state also directs state agencies to review transportation impacts from silica sand and develop model standards. This may help answer some questions which were brought up during the sand moratorium.

Commissioner Hahn asked about timing and how long it would take for air quality monitoring standards to be developed. Chairperson Porter stated that one issue is not just coming up with a standard, but determining a monitoring methodology.

Commissioner Davis asked if the silica sand assistance team would have an answer by October 1, 2013. Mr. Espinosa clarified that the assistance team is schedule to be assembled by October, and a response to Winona's request would come after that. Mr.

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Espinosa stated that he had already initiated contact with the Environmental Quality Board so that hopefully Winona's request would be one of the first reviewed.

Commissioner Buelow asked about air quality results from silica facilities. Chairperson Porter responded that he results he's seen indicate there aren't public health issues with ambient crystalline silica at the sand operations studied.

Commissioner Davis suggested that in light of the action by the legislature after the CEQC's recommendations were made, perhaps the Commission should see if the CEQC would like to further review their recommendations.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to return the recommendations to the CEQC for further review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hahn. Upon vote, the motion passed 7-1 with Commissioner Olson dissenting.

Other Business

Chairperson Porter stated that he received an e-mail from the consultant working on the interstate bridge. The e-mail asked for a Commission representative on the bridge's citizen advisory committee. Mr. Espinosa responded that he would send the e-mail out to the group so that everyone can check their schedules and respond if interested.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.



Carlos Espinosa
Assistant City Planner