

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: Wednesday Sept. 14th, 2017

TIME: Scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Fran Goodin, Chris Meyer, Bruno Borsari, Dan Hall, and Lynette Power.

GUESTS:

STAFF: Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard

1. Meeting called to order at 4:35 pm.
2. Minutes from July 12, 2017 meeting approved unanimously.
3. Goals Discussion:
 - a. Lynette discussed her proposal on water to include in goals. Fluoride and chlorine in water are concerns to her and others she has talked to in the community. Lynette stated that fluoride is byproduct of aluminum and industry. An alternative to chlorine is UV. Dan believes there would be push back from a public health perspective if fluoride was removed from public water. Dan and Chris would need more research before supporting limitation on fluoride.
 - i. Fran noted there are other items to consider about drinking water, and Dan talked about pharmaceuticals. John suggested clarifying goal as “Contaminants of Emerging concern”.
 - ii. Bruno discussed crypto sporidium, and devastating impact it had near the Milwaukee area.
 - iii. Lynette brought a City water report. John stated that City is required to provide report on water quality on an annual basis. Fran asked on veracity of report, and John replied that results are tested by verified laboratory.
 - iv. John will prepare goal form for water and present at next meeting.
 - b. John said goals are included to be discussed and finalized as CEQC workplan.
 - i. Silica Sand - Dan skeptical of need for silica air monitoring and objectivity of Prof. Crispin who is called out as an expert in the draft goal. MPCA results did not indicate high levels at silica sites. Fran discussed that there are various reasons to be concerned. Chris spoke about how work is still ongoing, and science is not definite at this point.
 1. John suggests broadening silica sand air quality monitoring to be general air quality. Lynette said monitoring of silica by City has been insufficient, and based on complaints. Bruno said size is one of the concerns – regulate to best of ability and cost effective
 - ii. Slate of goals, except water, was moved to a vote by Bruno, seconded by Dan. Approved unanimously.

Lynette left at 5:42 pm.

4. Committee Structure: John discussed having an official committee chair. City Committees are usually led by a member, with City Staff supporting rather than leading. John was asked to explain responsibilities of the Chair, and replied that it would be to work with staff to set the agenda and then conduct the official business of the meeting. Staff would still compile the meeting packet, take notes and help as requested.
5. Committee Scheduling: Weds. Oct. 11 set as the next meeting date. Generally the 2nd Wednesday of the month should work for members (at least those in attendance). John to send out notice reminders a week before.
6. Partners in Energy: John noted that the Partners in Energy Action Plan will be coming to Council in the next month or so.
7. Solar: John stated that since the last meeting, the City Council voted to proceed with looking into a Community Solar Contract with SolarStone.
8. Other:
 - CERT Seed grants: Chris described that CERTs (Clean Energy Resource Teams of MN) is offering \$20,000 divided into small grants. The grants would be open to organizations such as the City. Utilized in past for solar on WAPS for example.
 - Food map: Bruno described that there is potential to better utilize food grown within the City. He gave the example of apple trees on East end boulevards that are not being picked.
 - Winona Farm: Bruno asked that the Winona farm and its future be discussed at the next meeting.
9. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.