



January 29, 2018

Citizens Environmental Quality Committee
Winona, Minnesota 55987

Dear Committee Members:

The next meeting of the Citizens Environmental Quality Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 1st, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the Misato Room of City Hall.**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Review and approval of January 4, 2018 meeting notes**
3. **Planning Commission Discussion of CEQC (10 minutes)**
4. **Tour of Water Plant Scheduling (5 minutes)**
5. **Pollinator Education (10 minutes)**
6. **Ongoing Initiatives Update (10 minutes)**
 - 6.1. **Partners in Energy**
 - 6.2. **GreenStep Cities**
 - 6.3. **Sustain Winona**
 - 6.4. **Waterfowl Management Plan**
7. **Other Business (5 minutes)**
8. **Adjournment**

Sincerely,

John Howard

Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: JANUARY 4, 2018

TIME: 4:30pm

PRESENT: Hans Madland, Bruno Borsari, Dan Hall, Chris Meyer, Lynette Power

STAFF: Assistant City Planner Luke Sims

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Hall at 4:33pm
2. Minutes from December 7, 2017 meeting approved unanimously after a motion by Bruno Borsari and second by Lynette Power.
3. Assistant City Planner Sims provided an overview of the Complete Streets Policy and Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan that was approved by City Council in December. In particular, Sims highlighted the upcoming projects that could come in the short term. In addition, Sims outlined a Bikeable Community Workshop put on by Bike MN that Winona will be hosting in mid-May or early June and asked for interest from CEQC. Lynette Power, Chris Meyer, and Dan Hall expressed interest.
4. The Committee discussed the overall process for becoming a full Commission with the City rather than a subcommittee under the Planning Commission. The timeline was of particular focus with the expected presentation from John Howard and the CEQC at the January 22, 2018 Planning Commission meeting before proceeding to City Council.
5. The Lake Winona Waterfowl Management Plan was presented to the CEQC for input. Committee members mentioned a concern over the ultimate trapping and extermination of Canada goose populations but thought the overall plan seemed satisfactory. In particular, the emphasis on management of the geese – not getting rid of the geese – was important to the Committee. Chris Meyer deferred to Healthy Lake Winona's expertise in crafting the plan. Suggestions for further consideration included possible fertility management, having conversations about the carrying capacity of Lake Winona, conducting a study of effective deterrence measures, and continued awareness campaigns. Chair Dan Hall emphasized that the minutes reflect his support for the plan. Lynette Power also noted her faith in those crafting the plan.
6. Chris Meyer provided an update on Partners in Energy. Plans had been adopted with goals and there will be a meeting at the Friendship Center on the 23rd and one with the Learning Club in April. In addition, the GreenStep program was discussed: The City is currently certified as a Step 1 City and should reach Step 2 status in 2018.
7. Hans Madland mentioned a need for the City to focus more on connecting with nature to be an appealing place to potential residents and current residents. In particular, he pointed to Boulder, Colorado's recent ranking as the Happiest City in America. Chair Dan Hall noted that industrial development in Winona must be balanced. Hans Madland also noted that the highest and best use of land must be considered and that

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long-term planning must address waterfront development. It was noted by the CEQC that baby steps are being made currently.

8. On a motion by Chris Meyer and second by Lynette Power, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:37pm.

DRAFT

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 4. Tour of Water Plant Scheduling

PREPARED BY: John Howard

DATE: February 1, 2017

The Water Plant superintendent is happy to give the CEQC a tour of the Water Plant located at Johnson and Front Streets. The 2018 Water Quality Report is likely to be published in April, so it may be ideal to schedule a time after it is published so the CEQC can ask any questions about the Report.

The CEQC could have the tour constitute the regular meeting, or serve as a special meeting outside of the typical meeting time.

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 5. Pollinator Education

PREPARED BY: John Howard

DATE: February 1, 2017

Later this winter or early spring, the City's Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator (John Howard) will be conducting educational sessions for City staff on the terms of the Pollinator Resolution. Employee education is item #1 in the attached Pollinator Resolution. John will also discuss progress and goals for items #2-5 on the Pollinator Resolution.

John would appreciate CEQC involvement in advancing the City's compliance with the resolution. This topic came up previously, but not in the last few meetings.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Winona is dedicated to promoting and maintaining a healthy urban and natural environment today and in the future—and has in fact marketed itself as an outdoor recreation and scenic beauty destination; and

WHEREAS, pollinating insects, such as bees, are integral to a healthy ecosystem and to a wide diversity of essential foods, including fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, there has been increased scrutiny specifically on the link between a class of pesticides commonly used that contain neonicotinoids and a decline in pollinators; and;

WHEREAS, Governor Mark Dayton has issued broad new guidelines designed to restrict the use of neonicotinoids in Minnesota and has ordered state agencies to develop “pollinator-friendly” practices for maintaining state-owned properties; and

WHEREAS, such pollinators, including native bees and other insects in particular, are threatened by the loss of natural flowering habitat.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Winona, Minnesota that the City of Winona shall engage in the following action steps for the protection of area pollinators:

1. Provide routine education for relevant city staff that promotes and assists in protecting pollinators and facilitates creating favorable pollinator habitat; and
2. Direct staff to reference the city’s current chemical inventory against chemicals that are not pollinator friendly, including those chemicals used by subcontractors. In the event chemicals are being used that are not pollinator friendly, the City will attempt to find reasonable alternatives; and
3. Direct staff to identify sites suitable for pollinator-friendly native plantings, with an emphasis on the plants of S.E. Minnesota and, working with community experts, come up with a plan for planting and maintaining these landscapes. Staff will also consider inclusion of pollinator-friendly planting in the design of new or renovated public spaces, and consider restoration of existing public spaces with pollinator favorable habitat when opportunities to do so are manageable and practicable within such plans and can be accomplished within project budget constraints; and

4. Direct staff to develop and implement a plan, where reasonably practicable, to control and regulate landscape activities so that prime habitat on City property is not destroyed during pollinator breeding periods; and
5. To the extent of the City's ability and knowledge, the City will attempt to source plant material and trees from nurseries that do not use neonicotinoids, or other pesticides proven to be harmful to pollinators.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Mark Peterson
Mayor

Attest:

Monica Hennessy Mohan
City Clerk