

## **CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

DATE: Thursday Feb. 1st, 2018

TIME: Scheduled for 4:30 pm

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

GUESTS:

STAFF: Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard

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1. Meeting called to order at 4:49 pm by Chairman Hall.
2. Minutes: Motion by Fran to approve the Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 minutes as written, seconded by Chris. All in favor.
3. Planning Commission Discussion of CEQC: John described his conversations with the City Planning department regarding the best way to bring forward the question of the CEQC separating from the Planning Commission. John stated that the planning department believed that John, as City Staff, should prepare a report describing why the CEQC is better suited to being an independent commission, specifically how the goals crafted by the CEQC no longer fit with Planning Commission objectives. The timeline is for John to bring his report forward at the first February meeting of the Planning Commission (Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>), and if the Commission is amenable, to vote at the following meeting on supporting the decision for the CEQC to separate from them. Dan reiterated that the CEQC and Planning Commission have changed so that they no longer match up, and therefore the CEQC should serve independently.
4. Tour of Water Plant Scheduling: John proposed a visit to the Water Plant to understand how the plant works, and to coincide the visit with the publication of the annual Water Quality report put out in March or April. This way CEQC members can ask questions about the report while getting the tour. The CEQC enquired if the water plant was by the compost site, and John replied that it is not by the compost site (that is the wastewater plant), and actually the water plant is located in the downtown area on Johnson St. across from the Boathouse Bistro.

Lynette suggested it may be advisable to do the tour and talk with the water department before the publication of the annual Water Quality Report to see if other tests are needed. John said that much of the report and the test results listed within it are mandated by state law, so it is already determined. The timing also is such that new tests probably could not be incorporated into this year's report. Lynette wonders about raising the bar and looking at other criteria to test.

Lynette raised the topic of excessive salt application to melt snow and ice. She observed the YMCA having excess salt on their parking lot earlier in the week. She spoke with them, but the YMCA did not make any concrete commitment to change behavior. Lynette shared info on better salting, and highlighted that a coffee cup worth of salt, roughly a pound, is sufficient to clear 1.5 parking spots. Chris shared that the County hosted a workshop on environmentally sound winter maintenance coordinated

by the County's GreenCorps members earlier this fall, and suggested speaking with salting contractors about salt use.

John received notice of the YMCA excessive salting incident by email earlier in the week, and reported that he began assembling a team to work with businesses to reduce their salt use.

John will seek times for a Water plant tour and share with the group. Dan may not have time in near future.

Lynette asked to see a list of additives to water. Lynette asked about halides, and Dan described chemistry and value of bonding ability of halogens.

5. Pollinator education: Chris asked if John had a specific request regarding pollinator education. He responded that he would like to make presentations to city employees and wanted to offer the chance for CEQC members to help in that capacity.

6. Ongoing Initiatives:

6.1. Partners in Energy: The City will be rolling out the business efficiency work in the near future. John, Chris and others from the PiE team gave a presentation at the Friendship Center about energy efficiency, and are looking for other groups to present to. The PiE team will be presenting as part of the WSU Learning Club in early April.

6.2. GreenStep Cities: May 1 is the reporting deadline for this past year's actions. John would like to input accomplishments to achieve Step 2 status.

6.3. Sustain Winona: The group is moving forward with 501(c)3 incorporation. Anyone is welcome to participate in their planning.

6.4. Waterfowl Management Plan: John will be presenting the Waterfowl Management Plan to the City Council during a pre-Council work session on the third Monday of Feb. (2/19). The report has not substantially changed since it was before the CEQC in January.

7. Other Business: John mentioned that WSU is holding a series of water quality presentations in the next two months. (Flyer attached with notes).

8. Meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm when Chris needed to depart.