

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: Thursday, March 1, 2018

TIME: Scheduled for 4:30 pm

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

GUESTS:

STAFF: Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Hall at 4:37 pm.
2. Minutes: Motion passed unanimously.
3. Planning Commission Discussion of the CEQC:

John reported that his presentation to the Planning Commission went well and the Planning Commission appeared favorable to the CEQC's goal of being an independent commission. The Planning Commission would like to see greater specificity in goals, and how the City code would be amended to allow for a CEQC Commission. John further stated that he and the City Planning department would work on the Code parts, and would follow the format for other Commissions. The goals are the major topic for CEQC consideration today.

Lynette asked about one Planning Commissioner's question regarding the reasonableness of the CEQC. John replied that the Planning Commission was curious about the composition and views of the CEQC, and that he had responded to the Commission that the CEQC was reasonable, but may push the envelope of what some are comfortable with. Dan noted that the Planning Commission minutes reflect that the CEQC has well qualified and passionate members.

Lynette also asked about the reference to approval and review made by Commission. John responded that the Planning commission wanted to know if the CEQC would be a review Commission, for example reviewing stormwater plans of land development. John's understanding was that the CEQC would not be seeking this role. Dan replied that the advisory role is how he sees the CEQC.

Lynette asked if the CEQC could respond to an objectionable or contrary environmental condition. Lynette would like to be proactive. John indicated that issues causing concern should be reported to the City, and that the CEQC should have a role. John stated to the Planning Commission that the CEQC would like to continue to be an advisory resource to the Planning Commission even if the CEQC becomes a commission of its own.

4. Goals Refinement:

Dan began with his thoughts on the goals, and started with Air Quality. He suggests replacing “Monitor” under 1. with “Propose and investigate initiatives” as we are not yet in a position to implement a monitoring plan. Similarly, amend 2. so that “Begin” is a more generic term as we may not be ready to begin. Dan also discussed Water Quality, and believes the CEQC should state their interest to investigate “alternate technologies” rather than specifically fluoride and chlorine.

Bruno stated that he sees the CEQC as a vehicle to be a community resource.

Chris asked if there were specific goals that the Planning Commission thought should be revised. The only one John recalled was Energy Efficiency and renewable energy.

Lynette suggested having GreenStep best practices referenced to goals so it is clear how the goals would advance GreenStep path. Chris suggested limiting the additions or revisions to clarify current goals, rather than add new pieces. Chris also suggested starting with the first goal and working through each one in sequence.

Revisions for each goal agreed by the CEQC members:

1. Goal: Documenting Environmental Actions and Progress:
 - a. List that B3 is an energy benchmarking program.
2. Goal: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:
 - a. Change title to be “Support and Work Toward Cost-Effective Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy”.
 - b. Elaborate that workshops in 1. will promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.
3. Goal: Green Infrastructure:
 - a. Rename as “Define and Inventory Green Infrastructure”.
 - b. Insert “Utilize infrastructure in less environmentally damaging ways” as specific outcome of the goal.
4. Goal: Air Quality:
 - a. Clarify that air quality monitoring is an objective, and work needs to be done before monitoring can begin. This entails changes to the title and sections 1. and 2.
5. Goal: Water Quality:
 - a. Rename as “Investigate Water Quality”.
 - b. Add “research and investigate alternatives to the currently used water treatment methods” to 1. Also include mention of contaminants of emerging concern.
6. Goal: Active Transport:
 - a. Refine that the CEQC will coordinate with the active transportation committee, and others, to advance active transport.

Bruno sees green infrastructure as culminations, combination of many other sustainable features. Chris read EPA definition that focuses more on stormwater.

Bruno stated that honey bees could be used as indicator of air quality. Dan stated that the MPCA requires scientifically validated and standardized methodology, which bees would likely not meet.

Chris made a motion to incorporate the discussed and mutually agreed upon changes into the CEQC goal document, and authorize John to word smith the goals so they are readable. Bruno seconded, and all in favor of the motion.

8. Adjournment: Topics 5-7 were tabled due to a loss of quorum at 5:27 pm.