

April Planning Commission Notes:

4/9/18 Meeting: CEQC Goals discussion:

Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard provided an overview of the changes to the goals of the Citizens Environmental Quality Committee that was working to address concerns raised previously by the Planning Commission. Mr. Howard also introduced Dan Hall, chairman of the CEQC who was available for questions.

Chairman Hahn inquired about Goal #1's timeline for a report during the year. Mr. Howard noted that it would likely be end of August but no specific date was determined.

Chairman Hahn asked about Goal #3's driver to investigate water treatment alternatives. Mr. Howard noted it was a focus of one of the members of the CEQC. Mr. Hall noted that the CEQC was impressed by the current facility but the committee was willing to follow up on the concern expressed by one member.

Commissioner Buelow asked about the fluoride and chlorine concerns expressed in Goal #3. Mr. Howard noted that the chlorine could be examined but fluoride is mandated by the state.

Commissioner Shortridge asked about Goal #4 and whether noise was part of the mandate. Mr. Hall responded that it currently was not a part of the goal of the committee.

Mr. Howard noted that a formal request for recommendation of commission status would come to the Planning Commission later along with an ordinance to establish the CEQC as an independent commission. Commissioner Shortridge asked when that would happen. Mr. Howard said he was confident it could come forward at the next meeting.

Commissioner Paddock noted that the terms used in the document are very specific to the field and not a particularly approachable document for a layman. Mr. Hall mentioned that this was an internal working document.

4/23/18 Meeting: CEQC Standalone Advisory Commission Request
CEQC Standalone Advisory Commission Request

John Howard, Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Winona, brought forward new business of a resolution of support for the Planning Commission to consider. The resolution would indicate the Planning Commission's review and approval of the CEQC becoming a standalone advisory commission. Mr. Howard also included draft text of new City Code that could establish the environmental commission. Mr. Howard noted that the word "Commission" in the strikethrough edit of 22.14(a)(1) of the draft code text was erroneously included in the strikethrough, and that "Committee"

should not have brackets around it. The strikethrough should read "~~Citizens Environmental Quality Committee~~". Following this introduction, Mr. Howard asked for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Porter asked why the Citizens Environmental Quality Committee chose to come forward for status as a standalone advisory commission with the current members and goals rather than choosing to disband the CEQC and start with a new, re-structured organization. Mr. Howard responded that the current proposal came forward based on the active involvement of the current committee members and that there was interest in continuing the work currently ongoing. Commissioner Porter noted that there has not been a substantive body of work thus far in the committee's existence. Commissioner Paddock expressed hope that the current members of the proposed commission would be able to change that and provide more substantive work in the future. Commissioner Shortridge added that the goals of the proposed commission would still be within their current scope of work. General discussion of the existing committee's past work and reports ensued.

Commissioner Shortridge suggested to Mr. Howard and the proposed commission that they pick some goals with action items sooner rather than later, especially work with the park and recreation department. Some examples may be snow removal or mowing. General discussion about the goals presented at the April 9, 2018 meeting ensued with an emphasis on picking action steps to show progress.

Commissioner Paddock expressed his faith in the current committee's membership to achieve their goals and his belief that they can accomplish their goals and action items.

Acting Chairman Buelow asked where the movement to become a standalone advisory commission came from and the future makeup of the body. Mr. Espinosa responded that the purview of the committee had begun to stretch beyond land use. Mr. Howard noted that there are currently six members of the committee and that would be expanded to nine members should the proposed commission be approved by City Council. Mr. Espinosa noted that the proposed commission's relationship to the Planning Commission would still be similar to its existing advisory role.

Commissioner Boettcher noted that the proposed advisory commission would be able to bring things in from the background and forward to the Planning Commission.

No further discussion being made, the Planning Commission voted three to two in favor of the resolution with Mr. Howard's amended strikethrough recommending approval of the CEQC as a standalone advisory commission; Commissioners Boettcher and Porter dissented.