

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

DATE: Thursday April 5, 2018

TIME: Scheduled for 4:30 pm at the City Hall Misato Room

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

GUESTS:

STAFF: Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard

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1. Called to order: 4:37 pm
2. Approval of March 1<sup>st</sup> minutes: Motion by Chris, Bruno seconded. All in favor.
3. Water plant tour:

Dan was impressed by knowledge of the superintendent and cleanliness of the plant. Bruno echoed that tour was informative. Dan said host was congenial.

Hans was concerned by security, and ease at which a malfeasant could do harm. Dan said security was pretty standard for a water plant, and John affirmed. Bruno talked about how water supply is always a vulnerability, and cited the cryptosporidium outbreak in Milwaukee. Lynette asked if CEQC was familiar with Fountain City contaminated water supply? No one in attendance was familiar. Hans believes precautionary principle should apply, and it is worth taking substantial caution to protect our water supply.

Dan described that he asked about chlorine and fluoride, and chlorine is used for cost considerations as it is the cheapest highly effective option. Lynette expressed that if values are aligned to using alternatives, funding would be found, as there is public concern about using these two chemicals. Dan noted that bottled water actually is less regulated than tap water.

Hans voiced interest in visiting the City's waste water treatment plant (WWTP), as the water plant tour was very worthwhile. John will look into times to visit the WWTP, and suggested waiting until warmer weather as much of a tour would be outdoors. Dan said he was an intern at the WWTP, and that the processes occurring at the WWTP will be more complicated than at the water plant.

4. Discussion of Goals:

Bruno stated his desire for the CEQC to be more robust in their measurement of goals. Bruno's specific suggestions:

- In goal #1: Documenting City's Environmental Actions and Progress, we should make sure the report is made available to the public, and ideally hold a presentation or other outreach so the public is aware of it.
- In goal #6: Active Transport, we are vague as what "success" is.

Dan believes the discussion today should not be about rehashing goals, but to make sure they are clear and an accurate reflection of the goals the CEQC discussed. John noted that in order to make the Planning Commission submission deadline, the goals as included in the CEQC agenda packet were already sent out to the Commission. John can report any changes made today at the Planning Commission meeting, but they will not be shown in the text that the Commission sees.

Hans made the point that even if we are not formally a part of the Commission following the separation, it would still be wise for the CEQC to stay abreast of Commission projects, and to network with other commissions at the City.

Hans felt the changes to the air quality goal were significant and somewhat concerning. The goal was changed from doing monitoring to just looking into and planning how monitoring would be done. Hans stated that technology exists that can do monitoring, and guidance on how to do monitoring is easily accessible. Dan believes the CEQC still needs more specifics before we can say the City will do monitoring. John added that he talked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) last fall about borrowing monitoring equipment, and it is maybe possible, but not typical. The MPCA would like to see a Council request before getting highly involved. Hans said many citizens are concerned about air quality, and Bruno added that poor air quality is a legitimate health concern. Hans pointed out that the timeline was already out of date with March 2018 being listed as the deadline for the goal.

Chris stated that the CEQC should still focus on other goals and concerns since they are important too. She gave the example that water quality is a major concern to her.

Hans discussed that he sees the CEQC acting as an advocate for residents, and should not shy away from proposing an action or goal because another group/commission may not see it as a priority, or even be opposed to it.

Dan reiterated that the goals are not a justification for seeking independence from the Planning Commission.

Motion made by Dan, and seconded by Lynette to make the first change suggested by Bruno regarding more public engagement on the environmental report, and to add a year to the air monitoring deadline as noted by Hans. Other goals were to stay as written. All voted in favor.

Quorum was lost after the vote, so meeting was adjourned at 5:31 pm. Topics 5-8 tabled.