

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: Thursday May 3rd, 2018

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

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

GUESTS:

STAFF: Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard

Meeting of CEQC:

1. Call to order by chair Hall at 4:33pm
2. Minutes: Bruno made a motion to approve the March 23rd and April 5th minutes as drafted, and Fran seconded. All in favor.
3. Review of Planning Commission discussion: John shared printouts of the Planning Commission minutes related to the CEQC from the two Planning Commission meetings in April. Dan stated that the CEQC “passed muster” at the most recent Planning Commission meeting, as the Commission passed a resolution supporting the CEQC in becoming a standalone commission. John elaborated that it passed on a 3-2 vote. Fran asked if the two nay votes stated why. John explained that he could not speak for them, but he recalled that Commissioner Porter was skeptical of the name, preferring “Environmental Initiatives” or “Sustainability” compared to Environmental Quality. Mr. Porter also asked about why the CEQC chose to transform the current CEQC rather than do a fresh reboot. Mr. Porter said the CEQC did not have any accomplishments to stand on. Mr. Boettcher, the other dissenting vote, said he was not very impressed by the goals, but did not say much.
4. Next Steps for Independent Commission Status: John described that the third Monday in May (May 21st) was the soonest the CEQC could be on the City Council agenda. At this meeting, the Council would see the goals, resolution of support from the Planning Commission, and draft code language. Any change to Code requires a first and second hearing, which John believed would need to span 30 days. Therefore John believes the earliest any final decision about the CEQC would probably be the second Council meeting in June, or possibly the first in July.

John asked if the CEQC had any concerns or comments about the draft code language. The CEQC members in attendance did not have any concerns or comments, but asked if the code was different in any way from typical commissions. John said having nine members was a few more than many commissions, but the same as the planning commission.

John said one unique feature of the draft code is that it is not mandatory for a member to be a City resident. Chris expressed surprise at this feature, and John explained that some of the foremost experts and most knowledgeable people about environmental conditions in Winona do not live within the City borders. Of course, the City Council could change this feature of the draft code, or only choose to appoint City residents. After this explanation, the CEQC concurred that the code should not specify that a CEQC member must live in the City, and leave this decision up to the City Council. Dan noted a hypothetical example where someone who has a hobby

or small farm would not live in the City due to livestock and space restrictions, but could still self-identify and remain active in the Winona community.

Lynette raised a point about setting term limits – no definite limit at moment. The CEQC did not come to consensus on whether term limits should be required, but hoped the membership would not remain stagnant. Dan suggests non-voting consulting member option for those who wish to participate, but don't have the ability or time to serve as a full commission member.

Fran asked about how meetings are advertised, and sought confirmation that they are public. John stated that CEQC meetings are open to the public, and are posted on the City's website and online calendar. Typically the meetings are not advertised in newspapers or other media, but a notice goes to all media sources in Winona for the meetings. Dan asked about requirements of public meeting notices, and John replied that 3 days notice is required.

5. WWTP: Dan said there seemed to be interest in doing a waste water treatment plant tour. John said that staff is happy to give a tour. Likely 2 hours. Tentative date is 5/21 at 10 am. Seems to work for people.

Lynette asked about an additional water plant tour. Likes idea of well that is untreated, and accessible to people. Chris suggests that private wells may be willing to give water to those concerned by treatment chemicals. Lynette says she gets her water in Shakopee from public well, and it is always busy with people getting water.

6. Ongoing initiatives:

1. Partners in Energy: The City is moving forward with business outreach aspects of the Energy Action Plan, and John's intern is leading that effort.

2. GreenStep: The City will still be a one step city this year. Due to methodologies of counting a completed best practice, the City is falling a few actions short of being a step 2 City, however, filling the gaps to Step 2 will mean almost completing enough best practices to be a step 3 city.

3. Lake Winona Waterfowl: John and another volunteer went out to look at geese nests on April 25th. They only found one nest, and its eggs were nearly ready to hatch, so they were not removed or treated with corn oil. The City is using aerial drone reconnaissance to locate nests now, and intends to be back out to treat goose eggs so they won't hatch.

7. Other Business:

- Bruno asked about status of honeybee regulation. Bruno gave input to the pollinators, and Fred Krause expressed concern.
- Bruno said he met Bryce Lange, who is contemplating running for County Commissioner. Bruno asked if he could speak to the CEQC. John replied that the CEQC needs to remain a-political, and therefore could not host Mr. Lange as a speaker. He is welcome to attend and observe, or participate as a non-political candidate.
- John shared a couple of new developments:
 - The City was awarded a GreenCorps member position in the air quality category, and their principal focus will be energy use. They will start at the end of Sept. or early Oct.
 - The City has the opportunity to get a free fleet analysis for electric vehicle conversion. This will be on the next City Council agenda.

8. Motion to adjourn made by Bruno, seconded by Fran, all in favor. Adjourned at 5:34 pm.