

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: Thursday June 7, 2018

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

PRESENT: Fran Goodin, Hans Madland, Lynette Power, Dan Hall, and Bruno Borsari

GUESTS:

STAFF: Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard

1. Call to order at 4:34 pm by Chair Hall.
2. Motion by Bruno to approve meeting minutes from May 3rd as written, second by Fran. Approved unanimously.
3. City Council pre-council: Chair Hall thanked those who attended. All input was positive, nothing negative in his estimation. John noted Councilwoman Alexander was not in attendance, so her views are not known. John added that no action or vote was taken by the Council.
 - a. Hans made a motion: Request City Council to vote affirmatively to establish the CEQC as an advisory commission to City council. Seconded by Fran. All in favor.
 - b. Lynette would like to consult with Commissioner Boettcher about his concerns. He may have good ideas that would benefit the CEQC. Dan suggests not revisiting Planning Commission vote, as it was not clear it would be beneficial. Hans also questions value of revisiting, and suggests asking for input though going forward. John will prepare summary of Council meeting and put on the Planning Commission agenda, and reiterate openness of CEQC to other's ideas and input.
4. Next Steps for Independent Commission: Per Hans motion, John will prepare agenda item for next meeting for Council to consider and vote on. John will be clearer on active transport goal as the CEQC does not seek to set policy, but rather support the work.
5. Existing Energy Conditions Report: Lynette asked who prepared the report and how the City got the report. Dan said it was produced by the Great Plains Institute with other funding. John said it was a quick application process – simply an email expressing interest. John gave a brief overview that the report looks at energy use, transportation, and renewable energy potential. Some of this information was included in Partners in Energy information, but specific new information shows percentage of greenhouse gas emissions coming from transportation, which type of vehicles are being used, and renewable energy potential. Fran wondered where data came from, and if it was an estimate? John believes data on vehicles is an estimate based on comparable communities. Fran believes there are more hybrids than the 1% indicated in the report.

Hans wished to address the CEQC about figures he noticed: Commercial users are responsible for 58% of GHGs (page 2). Likewise, commercial has a much greater potential for energy reduction (page 3). In windsource figures, only 2 businesses, which is vastly lower than the 485 residents. Hans suggest greater participation and encouragement for getting businesses involved. One idea is a cost share with the City such as a rebate or tax cut. Hans referenced the CEQC's energy efficiency goal as supporting greater

implementation of wind power. Hans noted that TIF is similar process to what he is suggesting. Dan believes goal as written applies to City's municipal use, rather than City at large. Dan notes that commercial energy use is vastly larger than residents, and the additional cost could be very prohibitive. A company would need to be very committed to sustainability to pay additional cost of windsource. Bruno has been analyzing sustainability deficit, which he plots as an asymptogram, and sees greater benefit in targeting companies using large amounts of energy, rather than companies on board with sustainability. Hans noted that 485 residences using Windsource listed in report for 2016 is different than PiE progress report (386). Wonders why numbers are down by nearly 100 customers. Dan suggests coordinating with Sustain Winona and Partners in Energy, and brainstorming ways for engagement. Bruno believes recognition and gratitude would be best encouragement. Hans suggest logo, or windmill to show subscription. Lynette sees value in engaging with individuals.

John will bring Windsource marketing and ways to be more proactive with businesses to next meeting. John will invite his intern to come to the next meeting and share her work, and get ideas for future projects.

6. Ongoing Initiatives:

- a. Partners in Energy update: John said the summary report prepared by Xcel and included in the packet will be a quarterly summary report

Hans surprised by water heater rebate redemptions – down from 151 to 52 in 2017. Hans questioned whether this shows there is a gap to fill. Hans suggest workshop, and making sure contractors are aware. Fran related that she recently got a new water heater, and never heard anything about a rebate.

- b. Green Step Cities: Nothing new to report. The City is still at Step 1, but has made gains in completing best practices.

7. Other business:

- a. Chris Meyer resigned due to other pressing commitments. Thus there are two open positions on the CEQC. Hans feels it is very important to get a full roster.
- b. Lynette: is City considering energy independence and security? Fran related that putting wires underground proved very useful during Superstorm Sandy. Dan noted that wires tend to be unsightly.
- c. Dan had concern about lighting being overly bright at night. He noted bright lights at the East Rec. Center.
- d. Lynette had procedural question about getting an item on the agenda. John suggested she send it to him and Chair Hall at least a week prior to the meeting. Chair Hall is open to items being approved by staff for the agenda.

8. Adjournment: Move to adjourn by Bruno, seconded by Fran. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.