

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: Thursday, September 6, 2018

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

PRESENT: Dan Hall, Fran Goodin, and Bruno Borsari

GUESTS:

STAFF: Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard

1. Call to order by Chair Hall at 4:38 pm.
2. **Review of Aug. 2 Minutes:** approval moved by Bruno, seconded by Fran. Minutes approved unanimously.
3. **Business Outreach/contact re: Commission Status:** John relayed that the CEQC was the topic of an article in the Winona Post. Dan was familiar with the article, and a lot of focus was on regulation, and fear of additional regulation. John suggests having a session at Oct. meeting to seek input from businesses and educate about CEQC work. CEQC supportive of this suggestion, so John will add it to the agenda and do outreach to businesses.
4. **Electric Vehicle RFP Update:** John stated that the City submitted a grant application to a MPCA RFP for level 2 electric vehicle chargers. Fran wondering if this would be a single station? John replied it would be a dual one, so two chargers in the same place. Bluff Country Coop installed the first downtown charger recently at their property.
5. **CDP Annual Report:** John, per discussion at the Aug. meeting, filled out and submitted an annual report to the CDP organization. Fran asked if there is any cost, and no, it is free to participate. Dan wondered about the organizational funding, John replied that it is likely funded by donations, but he is not sure. Fran wondered what the benefits of participation would be? John replied that it gives recognition, and may help with funding projects. There is some benchmarking capabilities as well. All data is public and should be free.
6. **Ongoing Initiatives:**
 - a. Partners in Energy: John described that he is working to develop a Green Ribbon Commission to work with businesses, and should be kicking it off on Sept. 20th.
 - b. Green Step: No news.
 - c. Membership: Alison Bettin was appointed to the CEQC at the most recent meeting, but is unable to attend tonight. John will add her to the roster for Oct. David Schmidt is interested in joining the CEQC, and may be submitting an application. If David is appointed, this would give us a full slate of 7. Fran asked about the application and approval process – Dan and John described that it is an appointment by the Mayor and approval by Council.

7. **Other business:**

- a. Bruno: Anne Morse at the County has received a grant for \$90,000 to do a feasibility study about food waste composting. John said the County Board was considering accepting the funding in mid August. Bruno wondered if the feasibility study is needed given a 2012 report indicating program would be feasible. Bruno said Dick Gallien at the Winona Farm would be interested in expanded food composting. Bruno would like more information on the process.
- b. Fran noted that many gardens are being afflicted by yellow aster disease, and wonders about the proper disposal of diseased plants.
- c. Dan relayed that the low level radioactive waste disposal process, which has waste being transported through town, is being administered by operators with stringent rules. The waste is coming from the decommissioned Genoa nuclear power plant.
- d. John inquired if there is interest in reviewing the Unified Development Code (UDC) from an environmental perspective. The UDC was passed approximately a year ago, and is being reviewed. Dan believes this fits well with the CEQC's stated mission, and others in the CEQC expressed interest. John will bring the UDC to the next meeting. Fran suggests dividing the UDC up to make it more manageable.

8. Adjourned at 5:25 pm by acclimation.