

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: Thursday Feb. 7, 2019

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

PRESENT: Dan Hall, Lynette Power, Julie Fassbender, David Schmidt and Bruno Borsari

GUESTS: Mickey Maslowski

STAFF: Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard

1. Call to order at 4:36pm
2. **Minutes:** Bruno noted that in the January minutes, biochar is listed as an “amender” and it should be called an “amendment”. Motion to approve minutes with this one amendment was made by Bruno, seconded by Julie. Approved unanimously.

3. **Letter and discussion with Mickey Maslowski:**

Ms. Mickey Maslowski is hoping to discuss with the CEQC how she can help facilitate and raise awareness about climate change? This is a major priority for her. She noted the torrential rain and wildfires as worrisome indicators and impacts from climate change. She works, recreates and spends much of her time in Winona, but is not a resident. Mickey sees demand for electric charging stations. Dan asked if the coop charger is being frequently used? Julie and Mickey believe it is. Mickey sees chargers as a draw to visit Winona, and a lack of them is a deterrent to electric vehicle owners.

Dan stated that the CEQC is not a regulatory body, so does not make requirements. Mickey wants to affirm the value of having a body such as the CEQC, and sees potential for such a body to engage the people who want to find a role.

Lynette provided background that the CEQC was inactive for a number of years. Dan noted that hiring of Natural Resource coordinator facilitated re-engagement of the committee. Lynette sees emergent leadership from the City on environmental topics. Mickey agrees there is a more proactive approach going on as well, and is important that this is happening. However Mickey believes the status quo mind set remains for development. Dan suggests way of making change is by engagement in policy. Julie said talking with elected officials is another good way to express views. David says strategic engagement is key, don't want to be too outspoken as it may set back the work. CEQC still needs to provide advice though. David said an example might be tying TIF to electric vehicle charging where the City incentivizes but does not require.

Bruno noted that state is looking at setting a net zero energy goal by 2050, and Winona can be visionary as well. Julie says Winona is small enough to make change, and big enough to make a difference. David complimented Mickey on her letter. CEQC thanked Mickey for attending, and she thanked the CEQC for the opportunity to speak with them.

4. **WSU Sustainability Fair:**

John shared some flyers regarding the Home Energy Squad, Oriental Bittersweet removal, and stormwater management that he intends to take to the event. John also showed the group a table top stormwater map that he has used as an educational aid. John will be manning a City booth at the fair on Feb. 27th as well as the City's GreenCorps member, but welcomes CEQC participation.

Lynette suggests having a water bar using the City water supplies to compare to bottled water. Julie wonders if doing tabling takes away from the policy emphasis of the CEQC. Dan asked for elaboration, and Julie explained that policy bodies tend not to do events such as tabling.

David suggests having a drop box/comment box to get suggestions for the CEQC.

5. **Unified Development Code Review – Article 3, Divisions 1-6:**

David suggests adding “not be invasive or noxious weeds, including but not limited to buckthorn, honeysuckle, and Japanese Barberry” to the buffer requirement on p. 85 (43.03.23.3)c).

Julie: replace “his” in p. 80 to gender neutral “their”.

43.03.12: General Performance Standards:

Lynette wondered about the performance standards, and if they apply to existing buildings, or just new ones? John believes it applies to all.

Julie noted the “morals” in 11) as seeming very vague.

Julie asked what sections of the General performance standards seemed vague to John. John noted the “dangerous radioactivity” in 2) – seems this could be quantified or better specified. John wondered if this provision would technically prohibit radon mitigation devices. Dan stated there are gamma gauges that can detect radiation for testing. Lynette shared that her son works for sprint, and electromagnetic fields are something his employer warns against. Seems electromagnetic fields are not directly addressed in the UDC, but Lynette believes they maybe should be. David wonders if there is an OSHA code or something similar to set a good radiation standard. Dan shared that workplace standards developed by OSHA are not as stringent as what is allowed in the general public.

Lynette brought up 7), and the ability to monitor air quality. Seems the City waited on state standards. Dan said environmental testing can be expensive and takes a specialty skill set.

Julie asked if vibration would apply to moving vehicles? Dan said standard rules probably do not apply to vehicles. David thought of trains. Julie believes truck vibrations detract from housing. Lynette noted that car speakers can rattle houses, and wishes police would enforce noise rules.

Julie asked how people can appeal or challenge ruling of compliance? Is there anything in code particularly if a use is deemed to be in compliance but residents feel otherwise? David sees 43.03.11 D) as place to add challenge text.

Lynette had comment on parking (43.03.22), and need for more parking for libraries. Art gallery and museum seem reasonable. School parking seems too general – very different for elementary school vs. high school, yet one standard.

CEQC had comments in regards to exterior lighting (43.03.52): David believes it would be great to have restriction on upward light pollution. Not explicit in current code, simply that it must focus on structure. Lynette would like to see 30 foot height lowered to 20 feet – should lead to less light spread. John asked about light color/temperature? CEQC is supportive of keeping exterior lighting to warm end of spectrum. May also be wise to specify lumen intensity. Lynette would like motion lights – seems it would save electricity and reduce light pollution if lights only turned on when someone was near them.

43.03.24.3)a Surfacing: expand to be more than cement and asphalt. Should include pervious pavers.

Lynette noted that downtown development looks to be more restrictive, although what gets built should look nice. Dan cited example of Boulder, CO and price impacts of increasing development standards – very difficult for average person to afford to live there.

6. Planning Commission action on revised EQB Environment Review rules:

Dan briefly relayed that the Planning Commission passed the CEQC's recommendations unanimously. CEQC commended letter that was sent to the EQB.

7. Ongoing Initiatives: Tabled for another meeting.

8. Other Business:

Lynette wonders about the current number of openings of the CEQC. John replied there is one opening, and the person needs to be a resident.

Julie believes it would be valuable to have a business type representative on the CEQC.

9. Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm by acclamation.

Minutes prepared by John Howard.