

Community Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Regular Meeting
August 18, 2021 - 05:00 PM
Online Meeting

Members present: Indigo Davitt- Liu, Mark Dhennin, Tess Dornfeld, Divine Islam, Mathew Douglas-May, Sandy Fazeli, Lauren Fleming, LesLee Jackson, Anna Johnson, Toya Lopez, Nicholas Minderman, Jaqueline Zepeda (Quorum - 9)

Members not present: Max Dalton, Divine Islam, Barbara Lunde, Erin Niehoff,

Staff: Kim W. Havey, Bjorn Olson, Stacy Miller

Guests:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05.

1. Roll Call.

12 members present.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

Motion moved by Commissioner and seconded by Commissioner Fazeli to adjust agenda to hear the staff updates on the Hiawatha Expansion Project and to approve the updated agenda and the minutes from the June 16, 2021 meeting.

3. Acceptance of minutes

[July 21, 2021 Community Environmental Advisory Commission](#)

Consent

Location: Online Meeting, Dial-In Number: 612-276-6670 Phone Conference ID: 123 248 638#

Land Acknowledgement: As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, it is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this commission, and we honor it as we begin our meeting. We now open this space to discuss ways in which we can support Indigenous people in our community

Discussion:

Hiawatha Expansion Project Update

Director Havey summarized the outcome from today's City Council meeting in which CC voted to stop demolition on the Roof Depot to stop the expansion of the Hiawatha Maintenance Facility.

13. Hiawatha Maintenance Facility Campus Expansion [This link open a new window\(2021-00461\)](#)
 1. Directing staff from Finance & Property Services, Public Works, Community Planning & Economic Development, and the Office of Sustainability – in alignment with the City's

Southside Green Zone policy, the City's resolution declaring racism a public health emergency, and the City's resolution establishing a truth and reconciliation process – to:

1. Implement Option C-2 to improve the existing Hiawatha Maintenance Facility located at 1901 26th Street East, including construction of the office addition, shop bays, modified parking structure, and **suspend all aspects of the City's work to expand the Hiawatha Maintenance Facility at 1860 28th Street East and 2717 Longfellow Avenue South.**
2. Provide a report of the one-time versus annual activities and costs of maintaining the City owned properties located at 1860 28th Street East and 2717 Longfellow Avenue South. The report shall be presented at the next Policy & Government Oversight Committee on September 9, 2021, to be considered for fiduciary action.

Action Taken: Approved

NOTES:

General Concerns:

- Goodman: wanted to see the economic impact before making this decision
- Goodman: Asked if the City Council moved forward with an Exclusive Rights Agreement through a staff direction before
- Goodman: This staff direction is not related to the topic at hand (approving the adequacy of the EAW) and should be brought up at another time.
- Cunningham: Does not support moving Water Maintenance Facility to Fridley because traffic will go through North Minneapolis and add air emissions
- Bender: Let's not lose sight of EAW. Would like to approve this. Concerned about leaving a hole in the budget. Concerned about giving Exclusive Development rights to this organization. Concerned that this organization cannot raise \$12.3M in 12 months
- Fletcher: If we keep the Roof Depot building in place, it keep arsenic in the ground rather than remediating it as the City redevelopment would do
- Reich: Difficult to find an alternate site. Expense of holding the site for possible redevelopment will hurt other city initiatives.

VOTE 1

Bender: Offered a staff direction to move forward with the City's Water Maintenance Facility at the Hiawatha Campus, but hold 3 acres of the land for sale to the community

Ay: Reich, Fletcher, Cunningham, Goodman, Bender

No: Cano, Gordon, Schroeder, Johnson, Palmisano, Jenkins

Abstention: Osman, Ellison

Motion Fails

VOTE 2

CM Cano introduced a staff direction from Cano, Jenkins, Gordon and Johnson to suspend all expansion and sell property. If adopted, will require fiscal note and REIA to be presented to next Council at POGO on Sept 9.

Ay: Gordon, Cano, Schroeder, Johnson, Palmisano, Ellison (abstention on 10.3), Jenkins

No: Fletcher, Cunningham, Osman, Goodman, Bender, Reich

Parts 1 (Suspend Expansion) & 2 (Report on one-time versus annual costs) were approved and Part 3 failed (Exclusive Rights Agreement with EPNI).

VOTE 3

EAW Adequateness

Ay: Reich, Gordon, Fletcher, Cunningham, Osman, Goodman, Bender, Schroeder, Johnson, Palmisano, Ellison, Jenkins

No: Cano

Item passed.

Approval of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet passed 12-1.

There will be another CC meeting on Friday.

Treaty People's Gathering

Commissioner Dornfeld shared information about the Treaty People's gathering at the state capital to protest Line 3 on Wed. August 25 at 2PM.

See www.treatiesnottarsands.com.

Upper Harbor Terminal Update

Public comments were received on the Upper Harbor Terminal EAW. Mitigation is primarily focused on stormwater runoff remediation as the site is on the Mississippi River.

Vehicle efficiency is declining, but the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) assumes miles per gallon is increasing and that emissions levels associated with travel will decrease over time.

Carbon negative or net zero energy may be appropriate goals for this site.

Director Havey shared a summary of AUAR changes:

- Added more context in historic structures, to include history of the land and people and how that will be considered in the redevelopment
- Mobile sources – does not incorporate any GZ concerns (doesn't mention 94, still says pollution will go down as vehicles are more efficient). Does not mention emissions from increased traffic volumes from site as destination.
- Noise – traffic on 94 is mentioned as background noise ... why not air pollution?

Transportation / parking:

- Event parking for attendees will be provided off-site and an event management plan will be required to manage traffic and parking needs. Therefore, parking demand for Parcel 3 was not included in the calculations

Cumulative impacts --Nothing new added

Sections on Sustainability and Environmental Justice (p. 95-104)

- The development team will create an advisory group to assist in the implementation of the environmental justice strategies identified in the Draft Coordinated Development Plan

Final Mitigation Plan

- Air – mentions mitigating fugitive dust during construction

Discussion ensued regarding CEAC's letter on the draft AUAR are not reflected in the final AUAR about GHG emission impacts associated with the UHT development and whether there is interest in sending a letter to City Council prior to Sept 12 vote.

Commissioner Fazeli made a motion and Commissioner Dornfeld seconded to authorize Chair Niehoff to write a letter on behalf of the Commission to City Council and city staff. The letter may address the need to further analyze climate, air quality impacts, a transportation assessment lack of integration of public comments and other concerns at the discretion of the chair and vice chair.

International Panel on Climate Change Report: Resources listed below

“Today’s IPCC Working Group 1 report is a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse-gas emissions from fossil-fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk. Global heating is affecting every region on Earth, with many of the changes becoming irreversible.

If we combine forces now, we can avert climate catastrophe. But, as today’s report makes clear, there is no time for delay and no room for excuses. I count on Government leaders and all stakeholders to ensure COP26 is a success.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

- [Secretary-General Calls Latest IPCC Climate Report ‘Code Red for Humanity’, Stressing ‘Irrefutable’ Evidence of Human Influence](#)

Director Havey shared a few findings from the most recent IPCC report and invited discussion about what the report means to commissioners. Several commissioners shared and emphasized the need for policy makers to act. Of special note, environmental degradation knows no boundaries. Pollution impacts us all.

Presentations:

A First Look at the 2020 Community Wide GHG Emissions Report – Kim W. Havey

Director Havey gave an overview of the findings from last year’s community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. GHG emissions declined by about 30% in 2020, largely due to changes in behavior during the pandemic. Natural gas emissions continue to increase however and is trending upward, year over year despite investments in energy efficiency.

Commissioner Dhennin shared that in his company, only 10-15% of the workforce chooses to return to the office worldwide.

Commissioner Minderman shared that net zero does not go far enough. He also emphasized that disparities in job displacement are likely correlated with racial disparities.

Commissioner Dornfeld noted that Metro Transit will decrease fares to \$1 in the near term to encourage mass transit and this may reduce congestion and emissions from transportation.

Commissioner Fleming noted that the City of Minneapolis is offering reduced pricing at parking ramps. (See <https://mplsparking.com/rpc/>) This is inconsistent with the City policy to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled. She also shared a personal friend’s story whose furnace went out and she urgently needed to replace it, so another gas furnace was purchased. City of Minneapolis owns 40,000 parking spaces in Minneapolis.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there is program to recycle old HVAC equipment as we electrify. Director Havey will look into this. There is a strong preference that the equipment is recycled.

Director Havey used [Mentimeter polling to ask](#) By what date should the City enterprise buildings be net zero energy? 2025, 2030, or 2035?

Result: 3-2025 and 3-2030.

Setting science-based targets recommendations – Minneapolis Sustainability is looking for several commissioners to work together on recommendations to CEAC and the City on setting science-based targets to guide our work on the update to the Climate Action and Equity Plan. Recommendations would be made at CEAC's regular meeting in October.

Chair Johnson asked commissioners to please email Director Havey if they are interested in participating in this. kim.havey@minneapolismn.gov. Commissioner Jackson would like to participate.

September 15 Meeting agenda items:

Sale of Army Corp of Engineers St. Anthony Falls Dam Presentation – confirmed

Old Business

- Notes from groups in google doc on climate action plan:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18pc-wpLGKNHaySLiyMFNXxOkVVMdgK7CmUfDFnY6M6o/edit>

Updates and Announcements from Commissioners

- All City boards and commissions will continue to meet virtually through the month of September as the City's emergency declaration has been extended for 3 months.
- Recruitment for four new CEAC members
- The City is partnering with [Grow Solar Twin Cities](#) to promote group buying of Solar PV on residential and commercial properties. Solar Power Hours are being held almost weekly through October.
- International Panel on Climate Change Report Resources:
 - <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/08/latest-ipcc-report-catastrophe/619698/>
 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-58130705>
 - <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>
 - [New U.N. climate report is a 'gut punch.' What can Minnesotans do?](#)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:02.

Notice:

A portion of this meeting may be closed to the public pursuant to MN Statutes Section 13D.03 or 13D.05.

Next Community Environmental Advisory Commission meeting: September 15, 2021 from 5-7 PM – All meetings will be a virtual meeting through the September 2021 Meeting based on the City's declared pandemic emergency through September 30, 2021.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the City Coordinator's Office at 612-673-2563 or e-mail sustainability@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.