

**Minnetonka Sustainability Commission
Virtual Meeting
Minutes**

Nov. 9, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Sustainability Commissioners Justin Anderson, Edwin Avalos, Greta Beck, Brian Golob, David Ingraham and Ashley Pattain were present. Matt Henry and Harapanahalli Muralidhara were absent.

Staff present: Community Development Director Julie Wischnack, City Planner Loren Gordon, Staff Liaison Drew Ingvalson and IT Assistant Jona Sundstrom.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

4. Approval of Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Beck moved, second by Ingraham, to approve the Sept. 14, 2021 sustainability commission minutes as submitted.

Anderson, Avalos, Beck, Golob, Ingraham, and Pattain voted yes. Henry and Muralidhara were absent. Motion carried.

5. Report from Staff

Ingvalson reported:

- The city council adopted an amendment to the tree protection ordinance. The amendment reduced the size requirement for a tree to be considered a high priority tree or significant tree; established a significant-tree-removal limit of 50 percent; and added that redevelopments are now required to meet the tree protection ordinance requirements along with applications that request subdivision of a property.
- The next ambassador event will be the Winter Farmer's Market on Nov. 13, 2021.
- The next sustainability commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Jan. 18, 2022.

6. Report from Sustainability Commission Members: None

7. Agenda Items

A. City Campus Electric Vehicles (EV) and EV Chargers Update

Acting Chair Pattain introduced the proposal and called for the staff report.

Ingvalson reported. He recommended that commissioners listen to the presentation, ask questions and provide recommendations on how the commission may promote EVs in the larger community.

Anderson asked where the electricity would come from to charge the vehicles. Ingvalson answered that Xcel Energy would provide electricity. Xcel uses a mix of sources and is working to obtain more energy from sustainable sources. Anderson was wondering how far the electricity had to travel to reach Minnetonka. Ingvalson will do some research to find the answer.

In response to Ingraham's question, Ingvalson explained that Minnetonka pays to subscribe 100 percent of its energy use in solar power even though all of the solar energy may not be being used in Minnetonka. The power used in Minnetonka is not generated 100 percent from a solar source, but Minnetonka subscribes 100 percent of its electrical use for a solar source to create the same amount of solar power as Minnetonka uses. Minnetonka is working toward being able to have all of its power provided by a solar source as that becomes available.

Ingraham thought it might be helpful to encourage Xcel to be supportive of installing chargers at residences. He has heard from homeowners who had difficulty with Xcel workers installing EV chargers. Ingvalson will pass on that information to an Xcel representative.

Beck felt it would be helpful to tell consumers about the economic benefits when comparing gas prices and the cost of operating an electric vehicle. EV chargers will be available for the public's use.

Avalos agreed that this would be a good time to promote electric vehicles since gas prices are rising. He suggested having a Geotech location at the charger and encouraging users to post their use of the EV charger on social media. It would help create awareness of the chargers and support green initiatives. He thought some recognition in the Minnetonka Memo or a reward could be considered for EV charger users.

Ingraham agreed. He asked if Minnetonka has an inventory of its charging stations available for use by the public and encouraged that it be published on the city's website. Ingvalson explained that the staff report has a link to "plug share," which shows where all of the charging areas are in Minnetonka. He will look into a link to plug share being added to the website. There is an area in the middle of the city that currently lacks EV charging stations.

Anderson suggested creating and sharing a map to residents that would illustrate the number of residences in Minnetonka that have an EV charging station to help others become comfortable doing so themselves.

Avalos asked if additional EV charging stations would be added in Minnetonka after the first six. Ingvalson explained that the current plan is to monitor the use of the proposed EV chargers before looking at adding more in other locations that the public frequently visits. He noted that the Target by I-394 has EV chargers.

The public hearing was opened. No testimony was submitted and the hearing was closed.

B. Fall 2021-2022 Ambassador Events Recommendation

Acting Chair Pattain introduced the proposal and called for the staff report.

Ingvalson reported. He recommended that commissioners review the events and provide their level of interest in attending.

Anderson asked for the status of hosting an electric-vehicle-driving event. Ingvalson is waiting to hear back from Drive Electric. Hopefully, it will occur in May, June or July of 2022 in a large parking lot on the city hall campus.

The public hearing was opened. No testimony was submitted and the hearing was closed.

C. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)

Acting Chair Pattain introduced the proposal and called for the staff report.

Ingvalson reported. He recommended that commissioners listen to the presentation, ask questions and discuss each commissioners' interest in creating a climate action and adaptation plan (CAAP).

Avalos confirmed with Ingvalson that completing a CAAP would be expected to take five extra sustainability commission meetings over the course of a year.

Ingraham asked for what items the grants could be used. Ingvalson explained that the grants could be used for green and sustainable initiatives. There is a great deal of competition for the grants, but it would be worth trying to obtain a grant to help reduce the expected \$75,000 cost to complete a CAAP.

In response to Anderson's question, Ingvalson answered that the meetings to create a CAAP might extend past the current term of some commissioners and into their second term.

Golob noted that \$100,000 was allocated in Minnetonka's 2020 operating budget for sustainability initiatives. Wischnack clarified that those funds were used for staffing, televising meetings and other costs associated with sustainability initiatives established in 2021. The Nov. 8, 2021 city council meeting reviewed a proposed budget for 2022 that includes a line item of \$70,000 proposed to be used to fund the creation of a CAAP. The city council will review and consider final approval for that item in December of 2021.

The public hearing was opened. No testimony was submitted and the hearing was closed.

Avalos supports creating a climate action and adaptation plan instead of just a climate action plan. He looks forward to working on it.

Anderson felt that doing the CAAP rather than just a climate action plan would be essential.

Ingraham supports the creation of a CAAP. He appreciates the staff report's explanation of why it would take a year to create the CAAP.

Golob supports Minnetonka in creating a CAAP. He agrees with commissioners. It is an important endeavor. He would, ideally, like it done quickly, but understands the time constraints and need for it to be done in a coordinated fashion.

Acting Chair Pattain is very excited for Minnetonka to create a CAAP. She agreed with commissioners. Doing the plans together would allow them to be looked at holistically.

Golob moved, second by Anderson, to recommend that the city council approve taking action to create a climate action and adaptation plan.

Anderson, Avalos, Beck, Golob, Ingraham, and Pattain voted yes. Henry and Muralidhara were absent. Motion carried.

D. 2022 Sustainability Commission Meeting Schedule

Acting Chair Pattain introduced the proposal and called for the staff report.

Ingvallson reported. He recommended that commissioners add the 2022 meeting dates to their personal calendars and ask any questions about the meeting schedule.

Beck asked what percentage of meetings commissioners are encouraged to attend each year. Gordon answered that 80 percent attendance would be appreciated and notifying staff in advance if a commissioner knows one will not be able to attend a meeting is greatly appreciated. Ingvallson explained that if fewer than five commissioners are able to attend, then the meeting will be canceled.

Ingraham asked when he will be notified if his one-year term will be extended to the next year. Ingvalson explained that term appointments occur in March and commissioners will be notified in January or February.

The public hearing was opened. No testimony was submitted and the hearing was closed.

E. 2022 Work Plan

Acting Chair Pattain introduced the proposal and called for the staff report.

Ingvalson reported. He recommended that commissioners discuss and approve the commission's 2022-work plan.

The public hearing was opened. No testimony was submitted, and the hearing was closed.

Anderson moved, second by Golob, to approve the sustainability commission's 2022-work plan.

Anderson, Avalos, Beck, Golob, Ingraham, and Pattain voted yes. Henry and Muralidhara were absent. Motion carried.

8. Other Business: None

9. Adjournment

Avalos moved, second by Ingraham, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Anderson, Avalos, Beck, Golob, Ingraham, and Pattain voted yes. Henry and Muralidhara were absent. Motion carried.

By: _____
Lois T. Mason
Planning Secretary