

**Minnetonka
Sustainability Commission
Minutes**

Nov. 15, 2022

1. Call to Order

Chair Golob called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Sustainability commissioners Justin Anderson, Edwin Avalos, Elizabeth Boor, Brian Golob, Matt Henry, David Ingraham and Ashley Pattain were present. Harapanahalli Muralidhara was absent.

Staff present: City Planner Loren Gordon and Staff Liaison/Associate Planner/Sustainability Coordinator Drew Ingvalson.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Henry moved, second by Pattain, to approve the agenda as submitted.

Anderson, Avalos, Boor, Henry, Ingraham, Pattain and Golob voted yes. Muralidhara was absent. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Sustainability Commission Sept. 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Boor moved, second by Avalos, to approve the Sept. 20, 2022 minutes as submitted.

Anderson, Avalos, Boor, Golob, Henry and Pattain voted yes. Muralidhara was absent. Ingraham abstained. Motion carried.

5. Report from Staff

Ingvalson gave the staff report:

- Winners of the Sustainable Minnetonka Awards were presented with a plaque at the city council meeting on Oct. 24, 2022.
- The city council adopted the update to the solar energy system ordinance at its meeting held on Nov. 14, 2022. The update approved by the city council will allow ground-mounted solar-energy systems to be located in non-residential parking lots.
- An applicant for the young sustainability commissioner position is anticipated to be appointed to the commission by the end of 2022.
- A home energy squad event was held on Nov. 9, 2022. The turnout was smaller than expected. Attendees will be able to sign up for a free home energy squad visit at the winter farmer's market.

- Staff sent out a request for qualifications for someone to complete the climate action and adaptation plan. The application deadline is Dec. 21, 2022. The applications are expected to be reviewed in January for work to begin in February.
- Staff will be advertising the locations of the NexTrex recycling containers once they are in position.
- The city's fleet of vehicles now includes two Chevy Volts.
- At the school's request, Ingvalson taught students of the Minnetonka Vantage and Momentum Classes the regulations that must be met to develop a property including those related to stormwater retention, tree removal, impervious surface and setbacks.

6. Report from Sustainability Commission Members

7. Agenda Items

A. 2022 Work Plan Update

Ingvalson reported. Staff recommends that commissioners recommend approval of the 2022 work plan update to the city council.

Henry suggested that commissioners could assist with grant applications.

Chair Golob appreciated seeing the summary of what the commission has accomplished. Ingvalson stated that the summary would be reviewed by the city council before the end of 2022.

In response to Boor's question, Gordon answered that the city is not required to select the low bid for professional services like it is for capital improvement projects.

In response to Chair Golob's question, Ingvalson answered that the budget includes funds to perform community outreach.

Ingraham moved, second by Pattain, to recommend that the city council approve the 2022 work plan update.

Anderson, Avalos, Boor, Henry, Ingraham, Pattain and Golob voted yes. Muralidhara was absent. Motion carried.

B. 2023 Work Plan

Ingvalson reported. Staff recommends that commissioners review and discuss the 2023 work plan, recommend changes or additions if needed and recommend its approval to the city council.

Anderson suggested inviting staff, residents and commissioners on the tours. Ingvalson explained that some presentations would take place at the sustainability commission meetings. Some tours have a strict limit to the number of visitors and require the identification of the participants. He will keep that opportunity in mind as the tours are planned.

Anderson noted that Eureka Recycling might be conducting in-person tours as well as virtual tours.

In 2023, Pattain would like the commission to look into ways to help reduce the cost haulers charge for organics recycling. Ingvalson will include that in his notes.

In response to Henry's question, Ingvalson explained that staff would be contacting Hennepin County staff to request an environmental justice presentation be done at a sustainability commission meeting.

Boor learned that Plymouth is working to create stormwater ponds that would hold salt and possibly remove it from stormwater. She would like a presentation on how that is done. Ingvalson will look into that possibility.

In response to Avalos' question, Ingvalson explained that a vulnerability assessment would be done to identify human, environmental and infrastructure vulnerabilities in the community related to climate change by Barr Engineering. The vulnerability assessment will be used by another party to complete the climate action and adaptation plan.

Avalos noted how much the drought affected Shady Oak Lake this year. He is interested in seeing the results of the vulnerability assessment.

Anderson would like specifics of climate change impacts identified in Minnetonka.

Boor noted that Barr Engineering already did a vulnerability assessment for Hennepin County. Ingvalson explained that the vulnerability assessment would look more in-depth and be focused on Minnetonka to provide additional data and specific values not included in the report to Hennepin County.

Henry suggested including the vulnerability assessment as an attachment to the 2040 comprehensive guide plan. Ingvalson explained that the vulnerability assessment would be included as an attachment to the climate action and adaptation plan.

In response to Ingraham's question, Ingvalson explained that the vulnerability assessment would work with the natural resources management plan.

Chair Golob is excited to see the preview of the updated sustainable portion of the Minnetonka website in the first quarter of the year.

Chair Golob would like to learn which materials are being recycled. Anderson would like to see the breakdown of recyclables in the city and trace where each type of plastic goes.

Chair Golob noted that Earth Day occurs in the early spring and there may not be enough time to organize an event. He supports a resolution providing a formal acknowledgment of Earth Day by the city.

Boor supports the city recognizing Earth Day in a formal resolution. She has learned from working at the watershed district that it is hard to plan an event on Earth Day since there are already so many events that take place that day.

Chair Golob would like the issues related to leaf blowers to be researched and discussed by the commission.

Ingvalson asked commissioners for their level of interest in adding the following items to the commission's 2023 work plan:

- Tour a recycling facility and learn what happens to each type of plastic and other items put into recycling.
- Presentation and discussion on ways to reduce the cost of a hauler providing organics recycling.
- Presentation and discussion on the issues created by leaf blowers.

Henry would like to expand the leaf blower discussion to include all gas-powered-lawn equipment including mowers. Chair Golob agreed.

Henry moved, second by Ingraham, to recommend that the city council approve the 2023 Work Plan with the addition of including a tour of a recycling facility and education on what happens to each type of item put into recycling; a presentation and discussion on ways to reduce the cost of a hauler providing organics recycling; and a presentation and discussion on the issues created by gas-powered-lawn-maintenance equipment.

Anderson, Avalos, Boor, Henry, Ingraham, Pattain and Golob voted yes. Muralidhara was absent. Motion carried.

8. Other Business

Pattain stated that she appreciates Ingvalson and Gordon's work to move the efforts of the sustainability commission forward.

9. Adjournment

Avalos moved, second by Henry, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

By: _____
Lois T. Mason
Planning Secretary