

**Minnetonka Sustainability Commission  
Minutes**

**May 16, 2023**

**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, Molly Birr, Elizabeth Boor, Brian Golob, Matt Henry and David Ingraham were present. Harapanahalli Muralidhara and Ashley Pattain were absent.

Staff present: City Planner Loren Gordon and Staff Liaison Drew Ingvalson.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Henry moved, second by Ingraham, to approve the agenda as submitted with modifications provided in a change memo dated May 16, 2023.

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

**4. Approval of Sustainability Commission March 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Anderson moved, second by Henry, to approve the March 21, 2023 minutes as submitted with a change on page 3, paragraph 7 from “He has received . . .” to “Ingvalson has received... .”

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

**5. Report from Staff**

Ingvalson gave the staff report:

- Commissioners may now sign up to attend a workshop on the climate-action-adaptation plan in June and sign-up to serve as a sustainability commission ambassador at Summerfest. A webpage detailing the climate-action-adaptation plan will go live in June.
- Staff is hoping to hold the everything-electric event in September at the park at Ridgedale Commons.

- A flyer seeking applications for the Sustainable Minnetonka Awards has been posted in numerous places and Ingvalson has additional copies available for commissioners to distribute.
- Applications are being accepted to fill an open sustainability commissioner position until June 1, 2023.
- Two Green Corps members will be working with the city from September 2023 to August 2024 to reduce air pollution and waste production and host a reuse event.
- Commissioners may now sign up to be an ambassador for the sustainability commission for a variety of events.
- The city has applied for an energy efficiency and conservation block grant and an EPA climate pollution reduction grant.
- Several commissioners toured the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center on March 30, 2023.
- Two commissioners and two staff members visited the Minnetonka High School Envirothon Club.

## **6. Report from Sustainability Commission Members**

Boor announced that this would be her last meeting. She will be moving out of Minnetonka. She appreciated working with commissioners and staff and enjoyed serving as an ambassador for the sustainability commission. On behalf of the commissioners, Chair Golob thanked Boor for her service on the commission. She will be missed.

Chair Golob shared a newspaper article regarding life-long learning of sustainability items.

## **7. Agenda Items**

### **A. Restaurant Outreach**

Ingvalson reported. Staff recommended commissioners review the restaurant outreach materials, recommend changes and approve the materials.

Henry suggested that commissioners encourage managers of restaurants that would not be able to make many of the changes, like those in malls, to use biodegradable utensils and do whatever else would be possible for them to do to reduce waste and energy consumption. Ingvalson will do some research and make a note of which restaurants could receive a shortened version of the information.

Avalos suggested providing the resource materials in other languages including Spanish. Ingvalson believes the materials are available in several languages and will work on getting them to commissioners.

Ingraham confirmed with Ingvalson that the next Thrive newsletter will be issued in the middle of June.

In response to Henry's question, Ingvalson will check to see if breweries are eligible for the energy-smart-one program. Breweries are not eligible for the minimize program.

Chair Golob opened the public-input portion of the meeting. No testimony was submitted. The public-input portion of the meeting was closed.

Ingraham moved, second by Henry, to approve the restaurant outreach materials included in the staff report.

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

## **B. Electric Yard Equipment**

Ingvalson reported. Staff recommended commissioners review the information and discuss alternative methods that the city and commission can use to encourage people to move from gas to electric yard equipment.

In response to Henry's question, Ingvalson answered that some businesses accept batteries back at the end of their life to be recycled. Ingvalson said that information could be included in the outreach done by Green Corp members.

Avalos noted the evolution of battery technology for generators and vehicles. He suggested holding an event or continuously allowing residents to turn in and, hopefully, recycle gas-operated lawn equipment as they are replaced by electric ones.

Commissioners discussed which batteries are recyclable and which ones are allowed to be thrown in the garbage.

Chair Golob opened the public-input portion of the meeting. No testimony was submitted. The public-input portion of the meeting was closed.

## **C. Work Plan Amendment and Event Materials**

Ingvalson reported. Staff recommended that commissioners approve the proposed work plan changes and event materials.

Chair Golob opened the public-input portion of the meeting. No testimony was submitted. The public-input portion of the meeting was closed.

Anderson clarified that he would like commissioners to tour a material-recovery center that covers Minnetonka.

Henry moved, second by Avalos, to approve the amendments to the work plan and approve the event materials as provided in the staff report.

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

**8. Other Business**

**9. Adjournment**

Anderson moved, second by Ingraham, to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lois T. Mason  
Planning Secretary