



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center, 7071 University Ave Ne

AGENDA

October 8, 2019

Location: Fridley Civic Campus, Banfill Room, 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Approve Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes

- 1) Review September 10 Minutes

New Business

- 1) Presentation by Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
- 2) Approve 2020 meeting dates

Old Business

- 1) Energy Action Plan update
- 2) Mississippi St Meeting Recap

Other

- 1) 53rd Trail open house- October 26

Next meeting November 12 at 7:00 PM at Fridley Civic Campus

Adjourn



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center, 7071 University Ave Ne

MINUTES

September 10, 2019

Location: City of Fridley Civic Campus, Banfill Room

Call to Order

Chair Hanson called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:02

Present: Amy Dritz, Nick Olberding, Heidi Ferris, Mark Hanson, Justin Foell

Absent: Paul Westby Sam Stoxen

Staff: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Other: Iris Ferris

Approval of Minutes

Chair Hansen called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the August 13 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission minutes.

Chair Hansen corrected an error on the 2nd page related to the phrase “steepness of the sidewalk cross slope”. Commissioner Foell said that the minutes marked him and Commissioner Stoxen as absent and requested that this be changed.

Following the correction of these errors, Commissioner Olberding made a motion and Commissioner Ferris seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

New Business

1) Active Transportation Plan

Ms. Workin said that the EQEC had been working on updating the Active Transportation Plan. She said that the map contained two maps, a long-term vision for the City’s sidewalk and trail network as well as a map that listed the priorities within this long-term vision for that plan cycle. She recommended leaving the long-term vision the same and updating the priority map. Commissioners were asked to travel within certain zones. Ms. Workin asked the commissioners to share their experience travelling within the different zones. Ir

Iris provided maps of her opinions of where she biked in the City of Fridley. Ms. Iris Ferris commented that she did not feel comfortable biking between Locke Lake park and on 73rd. Commissioner Ferris described the conditions that made it discouraging to biking. Ms. Ferris also shared her experience of cars not stopping at the

crosswalk on 73rd, and that 3 lanes of traffic would come to a stop and then a car would speed by through the 4th lane of traffic. Chair. Hansen commented about 73rd being a very confusing intersection. Commissioner Foell recommended doing a temporary neckdown at this intersection. Commissioner Ferris recommended doing this in conjunction with the Timberwolves event. Ms. Workin stated that we could propose a policy of no crosswalks that must path through more than one lane of traffic in either direction. Chair Hansen commented on the success of a high visibility cross walk in Coon Rapids. Ms. Ferris also recommended a bike lane or path down Jackson Street. She said that the University Avenue Trail was very bumpy

Ms. Workin asked the other commissioners to share their experience biking in the City. Chair Hansen said the trail around Community Park was very steep, not at ADA compliant, which discourages riders. He recommended adding an ADA connection on northside of road, he also recommended the potential for trail or bridge.

Commissioner Dritz said that she like the improvements [new medians, crosswalk, and bike lane between high school and W. Moore Lake] on 61st. Commissioner Foell agreed, but said that the treatment at Highway 65, where the bike lane ended needs improvement as there are no curb cuts and he's unsure of where the bicycle should go.

Chair Hansen recommended focusing on County roads, and higher volume streets. He also recommended converting one side to trail when we have trail and sidewalk. He stated that the was on the fence about the Riverview Heights trail due to low traffic volume. Commissioner Foell said it was his favorite part of MRT. Commissioner Hansen said that it was already a narrow row, maybe it could use a sidewalk since there was such a defined cow path but doesn't feel unsafe.

Commissioner Ferris said she travelled along Zone 3 and was surprised by the number of people on the backroads in the industrial area (Main St/Commerce) by Treehouse Foods. She encountered a woman by City Hall who was lost and recommended wayfinding at intersections and at major intersections around the Rice Creek trails. Chair Hansen said that it was possible to get SHIP funds for wayfinding signs.

Commissioner Olberding said that the tunnel under the train station needs a bike rail on the stairs. He also said that there was a cow path in front of new sidewalk. He recommended increased wayfinding along the MRT through Stevenson Elementary.

Commissioner Foell said that his primary concern was maintenance, and that in many situations, the condition of the road is worse than the trail, for example Osborne Rd, 73rd, E Moore Lake Dr, Old Central. He said there should be plan for resurfacing of trails like there is for roads. He also recommended focusing on the small wins, like the crossing on 73rd and installing a curb cut from 73rd service road to University. He also recommended

connecting the 57 ½ Ave. Commissioner Foell also recommended installing more trees along the trails for shade and to block headlights and wind.

Commissioner Dritz commented that trees along University between Community and Two Stooges need trimming. She agrees on spending more effort on maintaining trail conditions. Commissioner Dritz said signage was needed on the trail between Locke County Park and 73rd Avenue.

Commissioner Olberding recommended signage on Monroe St into the Rice Creek trail system.

Chair Hansen suggested that the plan provide a pallet of reconstruction, provide options.

Commissioner Ferris recommended using wayfinding to communicate what the City has to offer and recommended increased signage around Islands of Peace.

Chair Hansen commented that there was significant erosion from the railroad onto the service road that previous efforts have not fixed. Ms. Workin said she would follow up.

Ms. Workin said that staff discussions supported the EQEC recommendations. She said that identified gaps in the sidewalk and trail system aligned with road classifications presented in the comp plan. She showed a map that included two way bike and walk facilities along these roads, and where the gaps were. She said that the bike racks could be addressed through a sufficiently wide trail on one side of the road or bike lanes on both side of the road. A trail could also take the place of a sidewalk. Ms. Workin then shared a matrix ranking the different priorities of trails. The commissioners expressed agreement with this method and the identified priorities in addition to the priorities listed above.

Old Business

- 1) Energy Action Plan update

Ms. Workin said the information was in the packet.

Other

- 1) Recycling Drop off- Sept 14
- 2) Smart Salting Workshop- September 19

Ms. Workin shared that 18 participants had registered.

- 3) Mississippi St Meeting- September 24

Ms. Workin shared fliers for the event and encouraged commissioners to attend or send comments.

4) Julie Jones retiring- October 4

Ms. Workin said that Julie Jones would be retiring next month and that she expressed her gratitude for the work they did and for being able to work with the EQEC. Ms. Workin said that her retirement party was planned for October 4 from 2:30-4 at Springbrook Nature Center.

5) New resident mixer- October 12

Ms. Workin said that there would be a new resident open house and asked for commissioners help tabling the event. Chair Hansen requested she send an email with event details.

6) Mosquito Control- meet in October

Commissioner Foell said he was at an event with the MMCD and thought they would be a worthwhile EQEC presentation. Commissioners requested an October presentation. Commissioner Foell said that he would coordinate.

Adjournment

Commissioner Foell moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Olberding seconded the motion. The meeting Environmental Quality and Energy Commission adjourned at 8:24



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION

Memorandum

DATE: October 3, 2019

TO: EQE Commission Members

FROM: Julianne Beberg, Planning Assistant

SUBJECT: Proposed 2020 EQE Commission Meeting Dates

The following dates are for your review and approval of the proposed 2020 EQE Commission meeting dates.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
14	11	10	14	12	9	14	11	8	13	10	8



Memorandum

Planning Division

DATE: October 3, 2019

TO: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission members

FROM: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

SUBJECT: Energy Action Plan

On November 26th the City Council approved an Energy Action Plan for the City of Fridley. In order to achieve the goals of the plan, an implementation plan was drafted. The below is a monthly update to the EQEC on progress toward completing the implementation plan:

September 2019

- 2 social media posts
- Newsletter article on community solar
- Direct calling all apartment complex
- Tabled at Senior Kickoff
- Handouts at recycling drop-offs

Upcoming Events

- Presentation to Senior Center 10/3
- Handouts at Fire Dept Open House 10/5
- Tabling at New Resident Mixer 10/12
- Presentation at landlord meeting 11/7