

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. Introduction / Roll Call

Acting Chair Wozniak called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his request, Public Works Director Marc Culver called the roll.

Present: Chair Joe Wozniak; Vice Chair Karen Huiett; and Members Stephanie Hammer, Michael Joyce, Nancy Misra, Shane Spencer, Jarrod Cicha and Youth Member Jana Lynch.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Public Works Director Marc Culver; City Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; Civil Engineer Luke Sandstrom, and Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Swearing in of New Commission Member

Mr. Culver introduced Jarrod Cicha and proceeded to swear him in.

Commissioner Cicha reviewed his background with the Commission.

4. Election of Officers

Mr. Culver reviewed the City of Roseville's Code regarding election of officers.

Member Misra nominated Acting Chair Wozniak for Chair of the PWETC.

Member Spencer seconded the nomination.

Acting Chair Wozniak accepted the nomination for Chair.

Mr. Culver asked if there was any other nominations. There were none.

Motion

Member Misra moved, Member Spencer seconded, to appoint Member Wozniak as Chair of the PWETC.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Chair Wozniak thanked the Commission for voting him as Chair of the PWETC and looked forward to the Commissions input and wisdom in the coming year.

Member Misra nominated Commissioner Huiett as Vice Chair of the PWETC.

Member Hammer seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Member Huiett accepted the nomination.

Motion

Member Misra moved, Member Hammer seconded, to appoint Member Hammer as Vice-Chair of the PWETC.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Culver reviewed the role of the Ethics Commission.

Member Joyce indicated he was interested.

Approved by consensus of Commission.

5. Approval of February 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

Motion

Member Spencer moved, Member Huiett seconded, approval of the February 27, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 (Cicha)

Motion carried.

6. Communication Items

Mr. Culver provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated June 23, 2020.

Youth Commissioner Lynch arrived at 6:58 p.m.

Member Misra indicated her appreciation to the staff for keeping everything running as smoothly and seamlessly as it has been during the pandemic. She asked for more information on the park land that would be dedicated as a result of the development of the area on the east side of Lexington and would it be developed as a park or more as a natural area.

Mr. Culver reviewed the plans with the Commission.

7. MS4 Annual Meeting

Mr. Culver explained in 2003, Roseville received a permit from the MPCA regarding how the City manages the discharge of storm water into public waters. He presented a summary of what the city's plan is to reduce the amount of sediment and pollutants that enter surface water from storm sewer systems. He noted the PWETC is asked to receive public comments.

Mr. Johnson made a presentation to the Commission.

Youth Member Lynch asked if the debris that is swept up good or bad.

Mr. Johnson indicated in this case from the stormwater side it is bad debris. It is a lot of sediment, leaves and sticks. Once sediment gets into the water it gets really expensive to pull out.

Mr. Johnson continued with his presentation.

Member Hammer asked if there has been any data comparison for salt used versus temperatures because it appears that the salt usage has gone up over the years.

Mr. Culver indicated more salt is used in the winter months due to thawing and refreezing of the roads which is contributed to the temperature changes in recent years.

Mr. Johnson wrapped up his presentation.

Chair Wozniak remembers when the biggest threat to water quality was not stormwater, it was industrial pollution and that is no longer the case. Now stormwater quality is the biggest impact on surface water quality and is such a big problem to control because it is non-point. It is really difficult to get people to

change their behaviors. He thought the city and staff are doing a great job but still a lot of work to do.

Chair Wozniak opened the public hearing at 7:43 p.m.

There was no public comment.

Chair Wozniak closed the public hearing at 7:44 p.m.

8. Annual Green Team Update

Mr. Culver explained on May 7, 2018, the city Council approved Resolution #11507 that named the Public Works Environmental and Transportation Commission as the Green Step Cities Green Team. He presented the annual sustainability update.

Environmental Intern Natalie Thompson reviewed her education background with the Commission and presented the annual Green Team sustainability update.

Chair Wozniak asked how the Commission can track the progress of EPPP if it has not been fully implemented yet and the process is still being developed.

Ms. Thompson explained she has created a packet of resources and recommendations and will be going over it with city staff in the coming weeks.

Mr. Culver indicated in future yearly reports staff's intent will be to track what purchases were made and if it was a more sustainable purchase.

Ms. Thompson continued with her presentation.

Chair Wozniak thanks Ms. Thompson for the presentation and thought it was very impressive. He indicated this gives him a lot of hope that the Green Team can help the city make substantial changes in sustainability.

Member Spencer asked what the "Maplewood Green Construction Code" was.

Mr. Johnson explained it is a lot like what St. Paul is doing where they are offering incentives to go above and beyond what the typical construction codes are.

Mr. Culver explained this was touched on before as far as mandating higher energy efficiency standards in the buildings, but the city cannot mandate energy efficiency for new construction or even remodeling construction that increases the cost of building. However, the city can develop a green code and promote building some more of these components into the State Building Code so elements are mandated. Incentives could be offered along with education.

Chair Wozniak wondered how the Commission will address these items at the meetings.

Mr. Culver noted staff will be spending a lot of time over the next two years on these items. A lot of these items can be built into the city's overall energy plan as well that Xcel Energy will help develop. He indicated staff can give updates to the Commission on what is being worked on each month.

Vice-Chair Huiett asked if anything surprised staff about what Roseville might not be doing.

Ms. Thompson was not sure and really not surprised because she knew Roseville was really just starting to get into this and trying to be more sustainable in the recent years.

Ms. Priscilla Morton appreciated staff for putting all of this together and everything that has been done so far and is looking forward to continuing with this further. She explained along with the city doing solar installation on city owned facilities some residents in the city have also done solar installations and she wondered if staff had a quantification for that at all such as how much solar has been installed as a part of this program.

Mr. Culver indicated he was not sure if Community Development had a separate permit specifically for solar. There are a lot of components to solar installation such as structural and electrical, but he was not sure if there is a specific permit that would be used for this in the city.

Ms. Morton thought it would be cool to know what is effective and encouraging people to do that. She thought this information and what is being done is great.

Member Joyce wondered if Xcel Energy would share some data with the Commission on focus areas to see some metrics.

Mr. Culver believed Xcel Energy would provide data on an aggregate level but will probably not provide it on a by user level.

Member Misra asked when staff expects to hear about the PiE grants.

Mr. Culver explained applications are due July 15th and he hoped the city hear sometime in August on the results.

Member Misra thought if the city does receive one of those grants that the Commission should think through how it would interact with that group that would be guiding that process or driving it. She thought this is a real opportunity if it does come through.

Chair Wozniak agreed.

Member Hammer thought a sustainable Roseville is also a very equitable Roseville and there seems to be a lot of connection. There is a lot of talk in the meeting about building affordable housing, a lot of different housing varieties around Roseville and that paired with this conversation gives her a lot of hope. She thought it would be nice to know what the Commission is doing to bring this topic to the table and connect all of the things that help the city be a more equitable and inclusive community to live in.

Chair Wozniak thought that was great, equity is one of those cultural guideposts that in the traditional set up of a city Commission seems to fall through the cracks. He thought it was excellent it was brought up and should be added to the filters the Commission uses to look at some of the issues that will be brought up from month to month.

Mr. Culver noted that equity engagements, the city does take that very seriously in Roseville and the HRIEC is going to be meeting with the city Council in July to have some conversations about strengthening some of those goals and efforts and he absolutely thinks that when the Commission gets into the engagement portion of the Partners in Energy program that it will absolutely be a priority of theirs which is to make sure they are inclusive in their engagement, deliberate about engaging all parts of the community and not just the ones that generally speak up.

Chair Wozniak thought this is one of those things the Commission has not talked about much as a PWET Commission and this is a high priority for the city and should be on the Commission's list of things to consider when discussing things.

Chair Wozniak thanked Ms. Thompson for her presentation and looked forward to continued updates on the long list of projects she is involved in.

9. Items for Next Meeting – July 28, 2020

Discussion ensued regarding the July PWETC agenda:

- City Ordinance Changes
- City Council Joint Meeting Preparation
- Preliminary 2020 Calendar, August – November.

10. Adjourn

Motion

Member Joyce moved, Member Huiett seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.