



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA

Thursday, April 17, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Coon Rapids City Center

Conference Room 3

Call to Order

Roll Call

Adopt Agenda

AI-1914 Minutes

Old Business

- 0. AI-1916 Green Expo Update
- 0. AI-1917 Solar and Wind Code

New Business

- 0. AI-1915 Heart Safe Training
- 1. AI-1918 Gardening workshops

Other Business

Adjourn



Sustainability Commission - Regular

Meeting Date: 04/17/2014

SUBJECT: Minutes

Attachments

0320/2014

The January 16, 2014 meeting of the Sustainability Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Colleen Sinclair at the Coon Rapids City Hall.

Sustainability Members Present: Bob Krahn, Chris Backes, Marcia Baudino, Steven Pedersen, Ed Dedman

Members Absent: Dave King, Stacey Demmer

Staff Present: Colleen Sinclair

1. ACCEPT AGENDA

MOTION BY ED DEDMAN, SECONDED BY CHRIS BACKES, TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY STEVEN PEED DEDMAN, SECONDED BY MARCIA BAUDINO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16th SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

3. MN GREENSTEPS CITY UPDATE

At the March 18 City Council meeting a resolution was passed for Coon Rapids to become a MN GreenStep City. Coon Rapids will be the 65th city to sign on to the program and the second city within Anoka County to join. The resolution has been sent to the GreenStep program and the process has begun. City staff will now start to gather and enter in the project information that qualifies Coon Rapids for the many steps it has already achieved.

4. SOLAR AND WIND CODE

This item was moved to a future agenda to a re-write by the Planning Commission. The code will come back before the Sustainability Commission for review in the next stage.

5. MISSION STATEMENT

A motion was made Steve and seconded by Bob to adopt the following updated mission statement for the Sustainability Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

“The Coon Rapids Sustainability Commission supports city efforts to promote a green, sustainable and affordable community by studying strategies and making recommendations that aid our community in reaching sustainability goals.”

6. GREEN EXPO

An update was given by staff on the following: Marketing, we have 3 large color LED boards available for use to advertise the expo. Blaine, Bunker Golf Course, and HOM furniture. Coon Rapids also has to smaller LED signs, one in the parks and one at the recycling center. We will send flyers home in school back packs and post information in middle and high school lobby areas, four scheduled press releases will be sent every few weeks, the first going out Monday, March 24th. All contacts from each partner have been combined into a master list and will be sent at the same time. Ads will be placed in the CR Herald, ABC shopper and the Blaine Life. All websites will be posted and linked to our new event website which is www.mngreenexpo.org. Lawn signs will be placed in Coon Rapids and event signage will be placed outside the NSC on 105th. Hand out will be given out at the Recycling Center as well.

Four displays will be borrowed from the MPCA on various topics such as recycling, composting and energy. As well as a tabletop display from Hamline University on Water conservation and use with impacts on water fronts and the river. The Recycling Center will create a display showing the amount of trash a family makes in a week and then show the percentage of recycling and organics within that display, a poster board will be displayed as well to show numbers and details of the display. A small table will showcase local and organic foods with resources.

Currently 34 of the 64 spaces are filled by vendors. Home depot is bringing an art project to the event, a bird house or bat house was recommended. The sports swap has been marketed to local sports organizations within Blaine and Coon Rapids and drop sites and been established one week prior to the event to collect items.

Volunteers will come from Coon Rapids High School Eco teens and NHS groups for the events, numbers have not been received yet as to how many will be coming. The following speaker schedule has been finalized and will take place at the expo: **10:15-11:15 Gardener, Marcia Baudino:**

Spending less money on food while feeding your family healthfully can be challenging for most families. Finding time to manage this with work and family can feel overwhelming. A local resident, with an average city sized lot, Marcia has transformed her yard into a food producing paradise. She combines permanent raised beds and permaculture (permanent agriculture) to grow her own fruits and vegetables while also purchasing food from local farmers markets. Marcia fills 4 freezers with meals each season that sustain her family year round. Marcia will share her story, present photos of her yard and send you home with tips and resources to help you get started in your own yard. **A follow up session including questions and answer time will be held at 11:45.**

11:30-12:00 Groundwater- a Growing Concern, Dawn Doering, Coon Creek watershed:

One of the top 3 issues in our 10-year Comprehensive Plan is a trend of lowering water tables that can result in lower water levels in our wetlands, creeks, & lakes. Find out what can be done to help protect water that is out of sight, but not out of (our) mind.

12:15-12:45 Planting to Save Water, Dawn Pape, Lawn Chair Gardener:

Make your yard work for you...and the Earth too by transforming your yard to conserve water as well as protect area waters from pollution. Local author and columnist, Dawn Pape, will give you the low-down on how easy it is to incorporate features such as raingardens, native plants and fine-fescues in your current landscape. Not only will you feel good about planting for the future, you'll feel good about saving money on your water bill.

1:00-1:30 Composting, Extension Master Gardener from Hennepin County:

Learn yard and garden practices to reduce the amount of plant waste and provide opportunities to reuse the materials in your landscape. Hear a Master Gardener's tips on getting started, the optimal compost recipe, and how to maintain & troubleshoot your own compost.

2:00 Rain Barrel & Compost Bin Drawing!

Sign up at the main entrance! Other prizes will also be given away!

A shuttle bus will be provided from Coon Rapids City hall to the NSC. It will start at 9AM and run till 2:30 PM. Funding was requested from the Community Strength organization. Final approval has not been authorized yet but should be notified within the end of March.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

6. ADJOURN

MOTION BY BOB KRAHN, SECONDED BY ED DEDMAN, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:45 P.M.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted
Colleen Sinclair, Staff Liaison



Sustainability Commission - Regular

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Meeting Date: 04/17/2014

Subject: Green Expo Update

From: Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator

INFORMATION:

City staff will provide an update in the planning progress of the Green Expo.



Sustainability Commission - Regular

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Meeting Date: 04/17/2014

Subject: Solar and Wind Code

From: Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator

INFORMATION:

City staff will provide an update on the progress of the City code for both solar and wind



Sustainability Commission - Regular

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Meeting Date: 04/17/2014

Subject: Heart Safe Training

From: Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator

INFORMATION:

Coon Rapids staff will train the Sustainability Commission is CPR and AED practices as part of the Coon Rapids heart Safe Community program.



Sustainability Commission - Regular

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Meeting Date: 04/17/2014

Subject: Gardening workshops

From: Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator

INFORMATION:

Planning for spring workshops for gardening topics following the green expo speaking event.
