



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA

Thursday, May 19, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Coon Rapids City Center

Conference Room 3

Call to Order

Roll Call

Adopt Agenda

AI-3620 Minutes

Old Business

0. AI-3621 Chicken/Native planting update
1. AI-3623 Green Expo Recap

New Business

0. AI-3622 Summer in the City Meetings
1. AI-3624 Project list

Other Business

Adjourn



Sustainability Commission - Regular

Meeting Date: 05/19/2016

SUBJECT: Minutes

Attachments

03/17/16

Minutes of the Sustainability Commission Meeting

March 17, 2016

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COON RAPIDS SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21, 2016

The March 17, 2016 meeting of the Sustainability Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Ed Dedman at the Coon Rapids City Hall.

Sustainability Members Present: Rebecca Holmlund, Ed Dedman, Marcia Baudino, Christy Lamoreaux, Tim Lockrem and Steven Pedersen

Members Absent: Stacey Demmer, Bob Krahn and Chris Backes

Staff Present: Amanda Bednar

Others Present: None

1. ACCEPT AGENDA

No modifications were made to the agenda. Motioned by Marcia Baudino to approve, seconded by Tim Lockrem. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes were not available at time of meeting. February minutes will be reviewed at the April meeting for approval.

3. March 8th Council Workshop Update

Staff updated Commission members on topics discussed at the Council workshop, next steps for implementation and areas where assistance will be needed from members.

Native Plants: The update to the long grass ordinance now includes information for allowing native plant landscape areas in Coon Rapids. The first reading of the ordinance is scheduled for the April 5th City Council Meeting. Staff and Commission members are tasked with creating a one-page handout to address the benefits of these plants, code requirements and resources for residents. Members also discussed options for extensive information on the City website including links to the University of Minnesota Extension program, local companies and much more detailed information for interested residents. Their focus has always been the environmental benefits including water conservation and supporting pollinators. Additionally there was discussion on plans for a sign residents could get from the city to put in their yards to educate neighbors about these native planting areas. There was some concern about wanting city staff to inspect/approve yards before giving them signs and issues with the sign indicating landscapes are city-approved when they may not meet code requirements. Staff is going to look into this more and speak with other city staff to ensure the signs are achieving the intended goal of education and not creating more staff oversight. There was discussion about including this at the Green Expo depending on how the timeline with code adoption goes and timeline for both items.

Chickens: There was support from Council on this and the Commission and staff are tasked with creating educational material for those interested in raising chickens. This will go along with the permit that's required by the City. Again it will be a simple, one page item with additional information on the city website. Commission members discussed encouraging residents to attend educational courses on the

topic which have been held by Anoka County 4H and Anoka Ramsey Community Education. Additional educational materials, links and resources will be put online as well. Members will provide insight and feedback on the educational and promotional materials.

4. MN GreenStep Grant

Commission members supported staff's decision to not apply for this grant and consider it again next year if there is again funding available.

5. Green Expo Update

Details for the upcoming Green Expo were discussed including funding awarded to Coon Rapids from Coon Creek Watershed District for the lawn irrigation pilot program. Commission members will help to determine criteria for households selected to receive the irrigation systems and possible items were discussed at the meeting. The Commission would like to see a diverse group that properly depicts an average Coon Rapids resident and will provide useful data for this pilot program. They would also like to work with those not selected to provide resources and information about completing a similar project on their own. Staff will start this application and email to members for their feedback before the Expo. Other booth spaces at the Expo were discussed including information about "flushable" items and water conservation. The group would like to include information about water conservation on lawns and in homes, specifically the environmental cost and how US water consumption compares to other countries. They will also assist with information about chickens and native plants depending on how the timeline for code changes works out with City Council.

6. New Business

Steven Pedersen wanted to discuss water meters in Coon Rapids based on the recent StarTribune article about inaccurate meters in many metro cities. He would like water conservation, accurate metering and water sources to be a focus for the Commission moving forward. He suggested working with the Freshwater Society, Met Council, city staff and council. Other members were in support and feel this is an important and timely topic. Plans were discussed to meet with other city staff with more knowledge in this area after the Green Expo in April, when staff will have more time to dedicate to this.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Marcia Baudino, seconded by Rebecca Holmlund to adjourn meeting at 7:45 p.m.



Sustainability Commission - Regular

0.

Meeting Date: 05/19/2016

Subject: Chicken/Native planting update

From: Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator



Sustainability Commission - Regular

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Meeting Date: 05/19/2016

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Sustainability Commission - Regular

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