

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Ficek called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his request, Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.

Present: Chair Bryant Ficek; and Members Michael Joyce, Jarrod Cicha, Nancy Misra, Mike Collins, and Edwin Hodder

Absent: Member Allison Luongo (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson and Sustainability Intern Noelle Bakken

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of November 22, 2022 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 Hodder moved, Member Collins seconded, approval of the November 22, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated January 24, 2023.

Chair Ficek asked with the above average snow there are a lot of piles building up by the corners and he wondered how that affects sight distances. He was not sure if there is a plan for this or if there should be because there is a lot of accumulation occurring.

Mr. Freihammer explained staff has, in most areas, tried to bench back, plowing over the curb to create more storage space for the next event and in most cases that does help to clear up sight visibility. If there are complaints staff does go and blow snow to open things up. He indicated he has not heard much regarding sight visibility on any particular corner.

Chair Ficek thought all of the plow drivers are doing excellent work. He noted he has been happy with it but does see it on some of the corners, but he thought that might be on County roads.

Chair Ficek asked on the Dale Street project if there is a layout because he is particularly interested in some of the areas of Roseville where there is not a whole lot of access.

Mr. Freihammer indicated there is a layout. The last layout he saw there is a center lane left turn running the length of the project.

Mr. Freihammer indicated he will provide the Commission with an Envision Roseville update at the next meeting.

5. Green Team Update

Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson and Sustainability Intern Noelle Bakken provided the annual Green Team update to the Commission.

Member Misra asked how the 2040 Comp Plan energy goals graph will change once the project goes through in Washington County.

Mr. Johnson explained that the graph, the fifty-eight percent produced in 2021 will jump up at least to three million. That will jump up almost ninety percent renewable just for City operations. This is really only looking at City Hall Campus and where the big draw is for electricity all of the time.

Mr. Johnson continued with his presentation on EV charging and Less Mow May.

Chair Ficek asked if there are going to be signs that people can pick up for Less Mow May.

Mr. Johnson indicated there will be signs available at City Hall and will be a limited number for residents.

6. 2023 Sustainability Update

Ms. Noelle Bakken made a presentation on sustainability program accomplishments that the City has worked on over the year.

Member Misra loved the list of goals for 2023 and all topics being talked about. One topic she was curious about was a presentation the Commission received a few years ago about sod and irrigation and changes in lawn management to diminish water use and she wondered if that was anything staff talked about in terms of a goal to have residents look at their irrigation practices and look at maybe different types of sod that might be more sustainable.

Ms. Bakken thought Less Mow May would be a great opportunity to bring that in. She thought it would be an interesting engagement to have the U of M representatives come on site for some education to talk to people about different water-friendly lawn care practices as well as having some pollinator plant information alongside that as well.

Mr. Dale Howey, 911 Parker Avenue, explained he has a native lawn in their front yard and did not have to water it at all this past year. He also noted this brings in the pollinators and wildlife as well. He explained there are about six pollinator yards on Parker Avenue between Victoria and Lexington. It might be interesting to take a field trip to see what is going on.

Ms. Bakken explained that is kind of the point of the City's sustainable steward program. It recognizes these people who are doing these kinds of things and the ultimate goal with that is to create a little community map of where all of these resources are so if people wanted to go out and see an example of a pollinator yard or rain garden or solar on the roof or something like that, people can walk around and see them.

Member Collins asked regarding stormwater runoff near gas stations and filling stations, there is an excessive amount of fuel and spillage running right into the gutter and he wondered if there has ever been a study done upstream and downstream of that and if there has ever been any correlation between the business and the City.

Ms. Bakken did not think there has actually been a study done as far as specifically runoff from gas stations but she did know there are water quality checks that are done regularly.

Mr. Johnson indicated at some point in time there would have been some report done from the PCA or somebody similar. He knew that the City has not done anything specific.

Member Hodder indicated he did not hear anything in the report about geothermal and he wondered if the City tracks how their geothermal facilities are doing. He

also would be really curious to see if the City is getting what was promised, as far as savings, on the solar campus and how this can be expanded. He thought it would also be nice for residents to get some education on financing of solar.

Ms. Bakken thought those are some good suggestions for staff.

Member Cicha explained he was curious if the City or Green Team has done any research on the mono-pollution or mono-road wear that would be prevented by switching to organized trash collection. He would really appreciate a pursuit of that.

Ms. Bakken knew there was a lot of support in the community so staff will do more digging on that this year.

Ms. Carol Marshall, 2976 High Court, indicated she was making a plug for the Urban Forestry topic, and she hoped Roseville will pay attention to some of the low income areas in the City that lack trees and actually support tree canopy growth, perhaps with grant money.

Chair Ficek explained he was excited to see how staff is going to get the information out to the residents. He thanked staff for the update.

7. Items for Next Meeting – February 2023

Discussion ensued regarding the February PWETC agenda:

- Deeper dive into a sustainability item
- Utility service: water and sewer services

Mr. Freihammer noted Jennifer Lowry is going to be the City's new City Engineer. He reviewed her background with the Commission. He would like to move the update on speed limits to March in order for the new City Engineer to be at the meeting and get her perspective on that.

Member Hodder thought the Commission might want to look further at the sustainability in the City.

Member Joyce thought maybe have information on the Metro Transit ridership routes.

Mr. Freihammer thought that might be a good topic to try to get someone from Metro Transit to come in and make a presentation to the Commission.

Chair Ficek thought another thing to talk about regarding sustainability is how to get information out to residents and businesses for the inflation reduction act and how it translates down to individuals.

Member Joyce thought food containers could also be discussed.

Mr. Freihammer noted the food container topic will be going to the City Council at a future meeting for a recommendation.

8. Adjourn

Motion

Member Cicha moved, Member Hodder seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:23 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.