

# Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

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## 1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Cihacek 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 Brian Cihacek; Vice Chair Joe Wozniak; and Members Stephanie Hammer, Karen Huiett, Nancy Misra and Shane Spencer

**Absent:** Member Michael Joyce (Excused)

**Staff Present:** Public Works Director Marc Culver

## 2. Public Comments

Ms. Alana Howey, 991 Parker, indicated she is a member of the newly formed Group Resilient Roseville, and their purpose is to contribute to and promote climate action projects and environmental resilience protection in Roseville. She indicated she would like to address the urgent need for city action to address the climate crisis. The group did not believe that the city is currently on course to meet its sustainability goals of an eighty percent city-wide reduction of emissions by 2050.

Ms. Howey explained this is a daunting task that requires action on many levels of government and across departments in government. With Roseville's diversity of parks, commercial property and housing the city should be offering leadership with any current development and maintenance projects that envisions impacts on our future. Decisions made today will affect any success or failure to meet our emissions goals.

Ms. Howey expressed her appreciation for the Commissioners outstanding commitment to serve on this Commission. She is encouraged there has been ongoing discussion and information gathering during recent meetings of this Commission, such as the GreenStep Cities presentation in August and was looking forward to hearing the Development Directors report on city Ordinance potentials soon.

Ms. Howey indicated her greatest concern is that there has been little action implemented to make the city cleaner, safer and healthier when facing the consequences of climate change. Roseville is only on Step 3 for GreenStep cities programs while Maplewood and Falcon Heights are at Step 5. While she is grateful that the city has made a little headway in this program that is backed by sound practices, the advancement into the latest steps is where the greatest impacts can be tracked and actually realized.

Commissioner Misra arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Ms. Howey explained she was confused about the specific structure moving forward to be effective as a Commission and as a city. She was looking through the July minutes and was confused by a reference from Chair Cihacek regarding not wanting to form a subcommittee, task force or increase what the Commission is already doing, and she wondered who is taking on the work. If it is not this Commission, then it needs to be clearly understood who is and is there capacity and willingness of the members of this Commission to be a leader in the development of this said sub-committee that would cross departments in the city. There is clearly a lot of work to be done. The Commission with a seemingly very broad agenda, including community resiliency issues, and providing just a few meetings during the year will not address the need adequately, in her opinion.

Ms. Howey noted Resilient Roseville is willing and would like to be a resource for any sub-committee or group that is dedicated to this work. This group could do research as directed and would like to be cheerleaders and promoters of city actions to further engage and activate other city residents to work together in responding to and limiting climate change. She explained the group would appreciate any guidance and where and how to best direct concerns moving forward. She would like to see the city supply the level of urgency that is required, working together to have the maximum impact on our community.

Chair Cihacek noted this item was discussed in August and September as well as July so there is some missing context. At that time the Commission asked Parks and Planning to form a subcommittee with forestry resources for multiple perspectives. Particularly who has responsibility for forestry assets, what are those gaps and where does the city get a better handle on forestry which would address the climate change concerns. That issue is moving down the line to other commissions to form that. One thing to remember is for the Commission to form a sub-committee task force it must be composed of the members at this Commission. More people cannot be brought in by city Ordinance. A specific thing that her group could do is ask the city to empower other advisory bodies or boards and that could be something to address to the city Council.

Chair Cihacek explained the PWETC is specifically looking for experts and resources to educate them on things that can be brought forward on a policy level to stop climate change. If Ms. Howey knows of speakers or resources to send the

information to Mr. Culver because the Commission is looking to schedule time in January to discuss that topic.

Ms. Donna Peterson, 2436 Haskell Street, wanted to follow up on some of the things Ms. Howey talked about and noted she was also a member of Resilient Roseville. She indicated a few days ago she was pumped up because she had the chance to go and hear some of the orientation for Minnesota Green Corp. She noted this is patterned after Ameri Corp. and this year in Minnesota there are forty projects and are working on all kinds of different things regarding environmental issues. She noted there are more than twelve cities that have a project and it seems like it is one concrete way to try to get a plan together and a program together to get something in submitted for 2020.

Ms. Peterson indicated she also found some grant possibilities. Most she learned at the PCA when she was there for this Green Corp. orientation. One of them was for trees and forestry's from DNR and that was forwarded to the director of Roseville Parks and Recreation Dept. Another one is about alternative landscaping equipment and the third is new and is part of the Volkswagen settlement money. Another one was seed grants from the Clean Energy Resource Teams for clean energy projects. Some of these grants are probably small and who knows how many of these are out there, but she found these in a week. She wondered if people at the city level even know about these grants and is there time to actually work on them if interested in them.

Mr. Culver indicated the Heavy-Duty Electrical grant is a new one he was not aware of, but the city has actually taken advantage of something that is similar to that. It is a Green Fleet Grant that will pay to get diesel engines off the street and Roseville has taken advantage of that grant and is replacing one of the older plow vehicles. He explained the city does take advantage of the grants and a lot of this is learned through the city resources through the GreenStep cities and the city partners with that. He noted Ryan Johnson is a great resource and has tapped into those things. The city does make an effort to apply for grants that staff feels makes sense and can make use of. The city was appreciative of Resilient Roseville. He explained by May of 2020 Roseville is slated to be at step 4 and then step 5 will come a year or two after that.

Member Wozniak asked if there was not an opportunity for a group like Resilient Roseville to do some research and provide the Commission with information on a topic that the Commission has been discussing.

Chair Cihacek indicated there is an opportunity, all the group would need to do is ask for time on a future agenda.

Mr. Culver explained the city cannot consider them an officially sanctioned commission or sub-commission or something like that, but the group can be put on a future agenda.

**3. Approval of August 27, 2019 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 Wozniak moved, Member Hammer seconded, approval of the August 27, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**

**4. Communication Items**

Public Works Director Marc Culver provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated September 24, 2019.

Member Wozniak asked if County Road C will be reopened soon.

Mr. Culver explained the city is hopeful the barrels will be removed on County Road C by the end of the week.

Mr. Culver asked the Commission for a couple of volunteers to be on a task force to meet with the Youth Commissioner candidate.

Chair Cihacek, Members Hammer and Wozniak volunteered.

Mr. Culver reviewed the items the city Council discussed at their meetings since the last PWETC meeting including train crossing horns study and the campus master plan discussion.

**5. Best Management Practices For Lawns**

Public Works Director Marc Culver provided a brief review and update on Best Management Practices for Lawns listed in the staff report dated September 24, 2019.

Professor Daniel Sandor, University of Minnesota Dept of Horticultural Science, made a presentation to the Commission regarding Lawn Care Practices for Water Conservation.

Mr. Culver asked how much rainfall is needed to consider the grass recovered.

Professor Sandor noted he did not have that data with him but could send it to the Commission. He explained depending on the volume of rainfall and the intensity

and how dry that soil is after the sixty-day mark, it can take a while depending on the soil properties in terms of how hydrophobic it was. Generally greening of the grass starts to occur within a week of resuming irrigation.

Member Hammer asked if any of the varieties of grass are tested for foot traffic tolerance.

Professor Sandor indicated the U of M does and has a traffic simulator. Fine Fescue is not high traffic tolerant, so mixing varieties work best.

Mr. Culver wondered what the disadvantage is to using Fescue's in a very sunny area.

Professor Sandor explained there is no disadvantage. Fescue's may need more water if in the sun then the shade.

Member Hammer asked which varieties are more resilient to weeds and clover.

Professor Sandor explained a lot of the weed issues arise when there are bare spots in the soil. Fescue is a very dense cover and does shade out some weeds. Some also have underground toxin response to reduce crabgrass. There is some research being done on this.

Professor Sandor continued his presentation on Turfgrass Water Requirements, Fertility, Cultivation and Irrigation Programming.

Chair Cihacek thanked Professor Sandor for the presentation and thought the Commission learned a lot from it and will discuss it at a future meeting.

## **6. Items for Next Meeting – October 22, 2019**

Discussion ensued regarding the October PWETC agenda:

- Community Development/Building Department: Current Sustainability Requirements and Incentives
- Utility Rate Discussion – Council approval in December
- Met Council Representative Presentation – Tentative
- Youth Commissioner Update

Mr. Culver commented the November agenda has the 2020 Workplan review for the Public Works Department.

Chair Cihacek noted a representative from the Met Council might come to the November meeting. He explained December the Commission does not meet and January he would like to have Sustainability topics. He would like to also have a debrief on Professor Sandor's presentation.

## **7. Adjourn**

**Motion**

**Member Misra moved, Member Hewitt seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:32 p.m.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**