

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

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 Michael Joyce, Nancy Misra, Stephani Hammer, and Karen Huiett

Absent: Member Shane Spencer (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Marc Culver; Civil Engineer Luke Sandstrom, and Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson

Chair Cihacek asked the members of the Commission to introduce themselves to each other.

Member Huiett reviewed her work history and background with the Commission.

Member Wozniak, Chair Cihacek, and Members Misra and Joyce reviewed their work history and background.

Member Hammer reviewed her work history and background with the Commission.

2. Public Comments

Ms. Tammy McGehee, 77 Mid Oaks Lane

Ms. McGehee stated she went to the City Council meeting last night and the Council rescinded the old ERW which she did not think did what the City wanted it to do anyway. She suggested to the Council last night that the PWETC should try to put together some sort of checklist that is for the whole City, any kind of development, the kinds of things the City is looking for in terms of stormwater, insulation, green building, new urbanism, consideration about traffic. All of the kinds of things the City talks about towards sustainability and for long term growth that is real and real green things. There is this myth that all of these other agencies have the staff to go out and check to make sure things are happening

correctly which is not true, the agencies are relying on City staff and there is not enough staff to go out and check. She stated she would like to see this group come forward as a part of the process with something that can be given to the Community Development Department or whoever negotiates with people that come in to do developments, remodels and other building so the City at least tries to protect its residents health, safety and welfare but that the City has also tried to be sustainable and green going forward.

Unidentified Resident

The unidentified resident stated a year ago she was at the meeting asking about organics recycling and she would like to know where the City is now.

Chair Cihacek thought Mr. Culver could give an update a little later in the meeting under communication items.

3. Swearing in of New Commissioner

Chair Cihacek swore in new Commissioners Hammer and Huiett to the PWET Commission.

4. Ethics Commission Member Appointment

Public Works Director Culver indicated the Commission must select one member to serve as a member of the Ethics Commission, per City Code.

Member Joyce indicated he would be available to serve on the Ethics Commission.

Motion

Member Huiett moved, Member Misra seconded, to appoint Member Joyce to the Ethics Commission.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

5. Approval of March 26, 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 Joyce seconded, approval of the March 26, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Abstain: 3 (Cihacek, Huiett, Hammer)

Motion carried.

6. Communication Items

Public Works Director Marc Culver provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated April 23, 2019.

Mr. Culver stated in regard to the organics drop off site, the City will be installing an organic drop off site in the City of Roseville at the Leaf Recycling Center on Dale Street north of the Nature Center. The design is being finalized internally before entering into an agreement with Ramsey County for the construction and operation of that. He expected the agreement to get to the City Council in May and hope to get construction going this summer.

Member Wozniak asked where on the site would the drop off be located.

Mr. Culver stated it will be located inside of the gate.

Member Wozniak understood the County has been talking to other communities including Little Canada about locating a drop off site there and would be helpful to address some of the concerns Roseville has had about people from other communities coming to that site.

Mr. Culver stated that working with Ramsey County the City hoped to someday offer curbside pick up for organics as well.

Member Wozniak thought that was a few years away and a step in that direction but will require a whole set of infrastructure.

Chair Cihacek stated this weekend is the clean up weekend.

Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson reviewed the City's clean-up day.

Mr. Culver updated the Commission on the history of the Environmental Review Worksheet (ERW), and the process developments and the City goes through. He stated the City Council did not really respond to the questions raised by residents at that time and thought it was a conversation the Council needed to have as far as providing some direction to the Commission as far as what the Council wants the Commission to look at so the Commission has some direction.

Chair Cihacek asked if the City has an inventory of what the City currently has for regulation that would mitigate or address these issues and how the items work together.

Mr. Culver stated step one might be to assemble a list of what the City does look at under a normal development proposal or review and what is in the City Code.

Member Wozniak thought that was a great idea, but he would not stop there. He would start looking at some of the sustainability issues and some of the goals in the green step program and others to try and incorporate, not maybe to go beyond what is required but what is a good idea.

Chair Cihacek thought the City needed to figure out where are the gaps and see what the City has in order to identify the gaps.

Mr. Culver stated that was a good point, but he was not sure to what level the Council wants to go to in that regard. He stated if the City is not requiring a certain amount of sustainability in new development then what is the point because if it is a permitted use within the zoning, nine times out of ten it is not going to go to the Council. It is an administrative review and permitting process that gets approved. If the City wants to start incentivizing sustainability elements within the new development or require, that is a whole different point and those need to be established first and then it is a question of how it will be monitored and becomes a part of the checklist.

Chair Cihacek thought it would be informative for the Commission to know what the City has for sustainability elements in order to be responsive to future City needs and to have more education on sustainability and green step.

Member Misra asked if there is currently a checklist or anything approaching that.

Mr. Culver stated for most development in the City it occurs under the Zoning Code and things that are codified. Staff internally have a checklist within its own departments of what is looked for as far as regulations and minimum requirements and such and a lot of that happens at the planning or community development level but there is not a formal report generated on a development and a lot of developments do not get to the City Council because the develop meets City Code and zoning. He stated the City does not have something that is neatly assembled that shows all of the environmental components of City Code.

Member Misra stated from a broader viewpoint, aside from just the codes, how is it determined how development interacts with green streets or with any of the other things discussed. The City does not really have any way for a developer to come in and know that these are issues that the City has taken seriously and wants to see certain kinds of progress on.

Chair Cihacek thought that was something for City Council policy. He stated the City Council is the body that would take up that conversation, or community development about what the City wants. This Commission can try to find out where there are gaps and make suggestions on how to fill in those gaps.

Mr. Culver stated most of the large-scale developments that happen in Roseville, particularly when talking about commercial or company headquarters and housing

is a competitive market and the City is competing with its neighbors. These are businesses that other communities want as well for their redevelopment sites so the City has to incentivize these companies with TIF or helping to clean up the site so then to also put additional requirements for sustainability on top of that and unless the City is willing to pay for those, is very hard to sell to those businesses because those businesses will go somewhere else. Until it is looked at making these requirements at a regional or statewide level it is really hard to stick to it because developers will be lost to other cities.

Member Misra stated she was not suggesting that there is not competition or there is not protocol the City follows but she thought to the extent that this Commission meets and people attend the meetings and make public comments and the Commission tries to be responsive to that, she thought to say it is only when the City Council proposes a policy and passes it means that everything else the Commission is doing around this table isn't significant. She would like to know when staff is taking on a project that staff is cross referencing it to the other things that have been talked about and that there could be a systematic way of doing that so that the City knows it is looking at issues like habitat or a preference for a green community in various ways because the City is competing and there are certainly plots of Roseville that have been difficult to develop but on the other hand she would just as easily argue that Roseville is a very choice community with an incredibly wonderful location and a lot of great resources and people are interested in moving to the City so to that extent she thought it was important that the Commission adheres to the values talked about at the table whether or not the City Council makes it all into policy at a certain level, whether it is an ordinance or a code, there has been a lot of discussion around things that the Commission talks about that could be referenced.

Chair Cihacek agreed that the communication goes two ways.

7. Sustainable Roseville

Environmental Specialist Johnson introduced Philipp Muessig, GreenStep Cities Program Coordinator of the MN Pollution Control Agency and Sean Gosiewski, Executive Director of Alliance for Sustainability who made a presentation to the Commission regarding Roseville's current sustainability efforts, and what could be done by the City in the future.

Chair Cihacek asked what the Commission's priorities were in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Johnson indicated he could not remember what the Commission's strategic visioning was for the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Gosiewski reviewed the vision of the Commission.

Chair Cihacek stated the Commission's priorities seem to be what Mr. Gosiewski has listed, it hits those targets within the timeline provided which are ambitious targets and he thought the City was starting to make progress towards those targets with the current policy structure. The trick for them is to figure out the next steps.

Chair Cihacek thought a question that needed to be answered was how the City will move forward on greenhouse gas emissions, Citywide electricity, onsite renewables, City operations with renewable energy and reducing climate related risks. One thing he thought the Commission discussed before was to get a handle on urban forestry and that the forest program does not live within Public Works or the Environment Commission, it lives in the Parks and Recreation Commission and so there is a good opportunity to create a synergy, policy, action and movement to develop urban forestry programs but it is particularly important given the City's loss of forest resources due to both natural disasters, storms but also disease. He stated the vast majority of Roseville tree coverage was composed of one or two species and not significant diversity which give the City a non-resilient forest canopy which in turn creates problems for greenhouse gas and other sorts of elements. He stated he would like to really get a better sense of urban forestry and management given the City's current status and concerns.

Mr. Muessig thought the Commission's action step strategies around urban forestry was quite detailed in Chapter nine.

Chair Cihacek thought chloride was a significant concern for all communities and he thought Roseville had significant problems with chlorine in water and resources so to find a solution to reduce that in a short term and to treat it in a long term would be a good one.

Mr. Gosiewski stated one other area that is really exciting is with Roseville having certain stores shutting down and redevelopment going on there or redevelopment over at HarMar so having higher density redevelopment has gigantic carbon benefits and looking at how to do all of the different pedestrian and bike connections. There is a lot of interesting ways to trying to figure out how to get around the City.

Member Joyce stated the City has great north/south transit, but east/west transit is very difficult to do. He wondered how the City can have a bi-directional transit system to get everyone where they want to go in the City.

Chair Cihacek stated there are many large corporations in the City of Roseville without easy access to get to them via transit. He thought transit was a concern for the Commission and has been a concern for some time, particularly east/west movement.

Mr. Gosiewski stated with the Met Council having a new council and Metro Transit trying to get over the bad publicity of having unshoveled bus stops and all of that and are very interested in listening and depending on how the Legislature funds more transit or not there is a lot of room for dialogue with both Ramsey County as well as MNDot and the State roads going through the City.

Mr. Muessig stated as the City better defines where it wants to be in ten years then that helps the Commission to understand what it wants to do and then finding who can do it. It is sort of a process of funneling down the needs and topics. He stated a framework like Green Step can help but there are things in Green Step that are only for small cities, there are a few for larger cities and some that simply do not fit the community culture or things the City has already done or would never do in a certain way. What are the City's priorities?

Mr. Gosiewski made a presentation to the Commission on Roseville's 2040 Comp Plan Resilience Section.

Chair Cihacek thanked the gentlemen for the presentations and asked them to come back in the future.

8. May Agenda

Discussion ensued regarding the May 28, 2019 PWETC agenda:

- MS4 Annual Report
- Green Team Annual Meeting
- Water Rate Review

Member Wozniak thought the Commission could look at Chapter 9 of the Comp. Plan and review the resilience goals to consider some priorities, goals and visions the Commission has.

Chair Cihacek stated as part of the Green Team conversation, he thought it was good to have a conversation to see if the Green Team should be this Commission or a different body in the City.

9. Adjourn

Motion

Member Wozniak moved, Member Joyce seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:39 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.