

# Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

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## 1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Wozniak 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 Joe Wozniak; Vice Chair Bryant Ficek; and Members Michael Joyce, Jarrod Cicha, Nancy Misra, and Shane Spencer

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Public Works Director Marc Culver; and Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson

## 2. Public Comments

None

## 3. Approval of July 27, 2021 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 Ficek moved, Member Misra seconded, approval of the July 27, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**

## 4. Communication Items

Public Works Director Culver provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated August 24, 2021.

Member Cicha asked how the parking in the City is going to be with the State Fair.

Mr. Culver updated the Commission on the things the City is planning to do regarding parking in the City when the State Fair is open.

Chair Wozniak asked about utility markings on B2 between Hamline and Snelling.

Mr. Culver explained Ramsey County is starting a project that will have substantial traffic impacts for the City.

## **5. Partners in Energy Update**

Environmental Specialist Johnson introduced Ms. Megan Weck and Ms. Tami Gunderzik from the Center of Energy and Environment (CEE) who gave a presentation to the Commission.

Member Misra indicated she was excited to see this get up off the ground. She was curious what the longer-term picture looked like on the commercial side and the longer time frame of the whole plan.

Mr. Johnson explained in the packet there is the implementation schedule for the next eighteen months and what will be the focus. Once that is done then there will be outreach and engagement in the business community later this fall and into 2022.

Member Misra thought this plan has been somewhat different from other cities and she wondered how success will look like on this in a year or two on some of the early phases.

Ms. Gunderzik explained she has been excited to see the data driven approach that has continued through implementation. She indicated they tried to put that into some of the early planning workshops to give people information to make decisions on and the fact that now that they have transitioned over, and the community has now taken the lead role that they still continue to do it in a very procedural process which gives her a lot of confidence that they are setting some good roots down and platforms that can be built on long term which is not seen in a lot of communities.

Ms. Weck explained within the plan, the goals of the business focused areas specifically, they have just gotten to engaging one hundred small and medium sized businesses which will then directly coincide with the goals they have for dollar savings as well as greenhouse gas avoidance. Those numbers coincide and is their measurement of success in one sense, numbers wise but also the success to of helping businesses through COVID to save money and promote energy.

Member Misra explained she was happy that the City is taking it with such attention to the data and the detail and she thought it was one of the really important things being done in Roseville. She hoped as it continues and it looks like there are other things that can be happening in the community, she hopes people will step up and take on the work.

Member Spencer indicated that now the City has some new and large developments going on, are they targeting them with some of this information as individuals or as small businesses, multi-family homes, apartments.

Mr. Johnson indicated as of right now with the new buildings and redevelopment, the City has not been focusing a lot on those buildings because they are brand new and will be focused on being as efficient as possible. The City is looking for a little bit more at the older stock, the commercial districts which have been focused on more than the new buildings that have gone up.

Chair Wozniak asked how the Commission can help and who they are connected with.

Ms. Gunderzik indicated the Commission could write the information down and give them to her or City Staff and she will make a spreadsheet. She noted they would also like to stay in communication with the Commission.

Mr. Johnson indicated he was open to all communications from the Commission regarding information on organizations that might benefit from this program.

Chair Wozniak indicated the Rice Larpenteur Coalition might be worth contacting and would be interested in the energy bourdon issue. He also wondered if the flier will be available in several languages.

Ms. Gunderzik indicated the flier will be translated into Spanish and they can talk about other languages that will beneficial as well.

Mr. Culver thought the City might have resources as well for converting the flier into Hmong, Karen, Somali as well as other languages. He indicated the City Police Department has some resources in working with that type of thing.

Chair Wozniak indicated he did some exploring when he was considering this topic and he was getting down the renewable connect rabbit hole online. He explained he has not seen anything like that before but is a way to sign up for community solar gardens and he was very interested in that. He noted that there are only two subscription holder in Ramsey County and neither of them are offering any subscriptions. He wondered if this had to be in Ramsey County, could it be out of state and how easy it is. He indicated he has been running into roadblocks and was a little confused by that.

Ms. Gunderzik thought what Chair Wozniak was looking at was their Solar Rewards Community and a person can apply with the actual developer of a solar garden. It can be within the County lived in or any County adjacent to it. She noted they do have a renewable connect program also.

Chair Wozniak thanked Ms. Weck and Ms. Gunderzik for the presentation.

## **6. City Council Joint Meeting Review**

Public Works Director Culver explained the PWETC held a joint meeting with the City Council at the July 19<sup>th</sup> City Council work session. There was a significant amount of conversation between the Commission and City Council about some of the upcoming topics that the Commission may take up in the next calendar year.

Chair Wozniak indicated he was interested in how COVID is going to affect the workplace which in turn will affect transit because they may not be designing the system for what is going to be normal.

Mr. Culver asked for Commission thoughts from the evening or topics to prioritize. He noted they usually select a few topics that they can start planning for over the upcoming months.

Member Ficek thought the review was very well done. He would be interested in the speed limits topic. He did not think the City was ready to take any action and he was not advocating for any action, but he would like to see some education on that. He thought the other topic would be transit and traffic as well as interest in seeing what happens with businesses and COVID and trying to bring people back to work.

Member Spencer explained the only concern on his mind, whether it is on the Master Plan or included in the bike network, would be addressing some of the electric scooters around and he did not know how these would be classified and where would these be addressed if the City were to address them.

Mr. Culver thought this would be a really good conversation to have to see if the City even wants them in the community and how to regulate them.

Chair Wozniak thought it would be a good thing to look at because it affects many things in the City such as speed limits, pathways, and other things.

Member Misra explained she would like to review the speed limit topic within the next year as well. She thought having someone come in from St. Paul might be a good start. She would also like to see someone from Parks and Recreation to discuss green space in the City. She thought a lot of green space has been lost recently with developments.

Mr. Culver discussed the City Tree Ordinance with the Commission.

Chair Wozniak indicated he would like to look back at what the Tree Task Force did a couple of years ago and what roadblocks they ran into, what were they able to accomplish and what was left on the table. He thought as a part of what he would like the Commission to look at is breaking down the silos, which is one thing that a number of Councilmembers talked about and experiment with a task force approach to multi-sector topics that are shared among the other advisory commissions.

Mr. Culver agreed and thought that might lead to encouraging Commission Members to watch other Commission meetings in order to participate on the same topic at the Commission meetings.

Chair Wozniak explained he would also like to talk about plastic bags and looking at a ban of them as well as plastic food containers and recycling. He wondered if they could also bring in the Human Rights, Equity and Engagement Commission for a little more equity exposure for this Commission. He understood there is a toolkit for equity and engagement, but he has not looked at it.

Mr. Culver indicated there is some reorganization within the communications department that will give them more resources for community engagement, some more targeted resources for community engagement, outreach, etc. and combined with some of the work done by the City's Equity and Inclusion Manager that is working on as well. He thought this would be a good update towards the end of the year or early in 2022.

The Commission discussed its vision and a future discussion on if the Commission needs to split into two Commissions in order to accomplish everything it wants to talk about and do.

Mr. Culver reviewed the input from the Commission for future agenda items.

#### **7. Items for Next Meeting – September 28, 2021**

Discussion ensued regarding the September PWETC agenda:

- Possibly have Parks and Recreation come to the meeting: Forestry Management
- Metro Transit presentation
- New Members to the Commission

#### **8. Adjourn**

##### **Motion**

**Member Misra moved, Member Joyce seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**