

Energy Plan Commission

Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - July 15, 2020

Attendance: Commissioners: Alison Hoxie, Brian Hinderliter, Cassandra Theisen, Fosam Foncham, Gary Olson, Maria Jose Gomez Quijano, Nate Lacoursiere.

City Staff: Erik Birkeland, Property & Facilities Manager; Mike LeBeau, Construction Project Supervisor; Alex Jackson, Energy Coordinator; Mindy Granley, Sustainability Officer; Jennifer Ondrik, Administrative Specialist; Kaija Roy, GreenCorps Member.

Call to Order:

The Commission meeting started at 2:35 P.M.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes:

The Commission adopted the meeting minutes from June.

NEW BUISNESS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Update & Commissioner-led Discussion – Alex Jackson updated the Commission on recent tracking graphics created by Kaija Roy, GreenCorps Member. Questions about Duluth Steam was asked, and Alex explained that his role for the City was to monitor and track *municipal* activities and not Duluth Energy Systems. Mindy indicated that Duluth Energy Systems provides the numbers for their emissions and that she will be inviting them to an upcoming meeting to allow them to explain how they measure and track their efficiencies. Gary Olson suggested that the City consider attempting to reduce its carbon emissions to a 100% reduction rather than an 80% goal by 2050. City staff explained that the 80% reduction goal is the current formal charge, is consistent with the State of Minnesota’s Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 goal, and meeting this existing goal will not be easy. In order to reach this goal we will need help from both internal and external partners including MN Power, Comfort Systems, and Public Works (Water Treatment), along with community groups and organizations.

Citizens Climate Action Plan – Lora Wedge, from Ecolibrium3, presented to the Commission on the Duluth Citizens’ Climate Action Plan (Duluth CCAP). She described that this citizen effort is meant to inspire community-wide individual action to help reduce Duluth’s greenhouse gas emissions and envision a future for Duluth that is sustainable and equitable. The Duluth CCAP will create a process for citizens to identify, prioritize, and implement actions to reach climate goals. By participating in the process, citizens will also build understanding and ownership of community-wide changes to address the climate crisis and potential solutions. The work was funded by a Clean Energy Resources Team grant.

For additional information and participation see: <https://www.ecolibrium3.org/climate-action-plan/>

OLD BUISNESS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

The Commission expressed interest of the following topics to be discussed during upcoming meetings: Building standards, potential changes to UDC, Duluth Steam.

ADJOURN

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:07 p.m., M/S/C.