

Energy Plan Commission

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2021

Regular Meeting

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

City Staff: Mindy Granley, Sustainability Officer; Mike LeBeau, Construction Project Supervisor; Alex Jackson, Energy Coordinator ; Jennifer Ondrik, Administrative Specialist; Lily Strehlow, Sustainability Intern.

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 2:32 pm.

Old Business

2020 Executive Summary – The Commission voted to adopt the 2020 annual summary as prepared by Commissioner Hoxie and Commissioner Lacoursiere. Mindy will bring it forward to administration and City staff will have it uploaded to the EPCs website. **(VOTE: 7 - Yes; 0 – No)**

The Commission opted to change the 2021 regular meeting times to 4:00 PM every *other* month, the third Wednesday of the month. City staff will update the EPCs website to reflect this change.

New Business:

Terry Nanti gave an overview of the current operations at Duluth Energy Systems. He explained the history of steam in Duluth, the benefits of District Energy, and emphasized how thermal energy supplies critical operations for our medical district. Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about Duluth Energy Systems and their efforts in reducing carbon emissions.

Sustainability Officer Update:

Mindy Granley updated the Commission on her recent efforts and accomplishments. Work continues both on the state-wide group and internal efforts to advance energy codes and standards policy. The sustainability interns have made significant improvements to both the City's [Energy website](#) and [Instagram accounts](#). Efforts continue on metrics tracking and converting data into the new ClearPath calculator starting from 2018. Mindy informed the Commission on the recent grants that have been submitted and those that are currently being worked on and provided details on the Duluth Solar Project, one of three potential locations proposed for an accelerated solar project with Minnesota Power. Lastly she explained the charge of the newly formed City Sustainability Advisory Team (C-SAT), which is an interdepartmental work group focused on climate change and sustainability efforts throughout the city.

Energy Coordinator Update:

Alex Jackson gave an update on the City's recent efforts at the Aerial Lift Bridge lighting and Hockey Lights and the expected reductions in our utility/operational costs from the improvement projects.

Adjournment:

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 PM, M/S/C.