

Energy Plan Commission

Meeting Minutes July 21, 2021

Regular Meeting (WebEx)

Attendance: Commissioners: Alison Hoxie, Gary Olson, Cassandra Theisen, Brian Hinderliter, Robert Reichert. **Absent:** Nate Lacoursiere, Fosam Foncham.

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

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 4:17 pm.

New Business:

Active City Projects

Alex Jackson (Energy Coordinator) gave an overview of the current active projects occurring throughout City facilities.

- City Center West project updates – adding radiant heating – bids came back favorable, upgraded controls and energy savings.
- Request for proposals starting on City Hall. Intent is to go out for Bid by August 6, 2021.
- Fleet electrification – Working with Fleet Manager to develop an implementation strategy for EV's. Director of Administration has proposed a rather aggressive implementation plan for introduction and transition to EV's, where it works. Energy Manager will support the deployment of charging infrastructure.

Old Business:

City Owner Performance Requirements

Lily Strenhlow (Sustainability Intern) gave an update on progress made on the City's internal sustainable building policy. The group discussed that the intent of this Policy will be to formalize a set of standards for any City building project, whether it is construction or reconstruction. This standard will be provided to engineers and designers who work with the City, including insulation, Solar-ready, EV ready, etc). Commissioner Olson encouraged the City consider incorporating electrification and heat pumps into heating systems. Lily explained the Flexible Fuel System clause and then *whenever possible* the infrastructure for future electrification should be built into building and sites. Commissioner Theisen suggested that several sections be strengthened and offered to provide a listing of suggestions. The group discussed and concluded the some of the OPR language provided an opportunity for loop holes and non-compliance. Mike LeBeau (Construction Project Supervisor) commented that this Policy also needs to be realistic regarding funding, existing conditions and previous investments. Mindy Granley encouraged Commissioners to send her comments and indicated that the City would work to finalize the draft OPR and bring it back to the Commission.

Commissioner Olson motioned that the City adopt the Owner Performance Requirements – based on the draft June 8th to be finalized in September. **VOTE: 5 YES (2 Absent). Motion Carries.**

Sustainability Officer Update:

Mindy Granley updated the Commission on recent sustainability efforts.

- Thanks and goodbye to Lily Strehlow. Welcome to intern Hannah.
- Legislative updates related to city energy/climate action: ECO Act, Natural Gas Innovation Act, Clean Cars, Solar in Schools, Commercial building code
- Project updates: MN Power's Riley Road Solar project, EV readiness planning, Climate Action Work Plan, City Sustainability Advisory Team, Sustainable Purchasing, grants update, American Rescue Plan sustainability aspects, and Congressionally-directed funding request for clean energy.

Energy Coordinator Update:

Nothing further.

Future Meeting Topics/Announcements

Commissioner Reichert: Sustainability Standard is missing energy – especially thermal energy. Doesn't apply widely enough either. **Mindy:** Yes, thermal energy is not called out, and energy in general is small portion. Planning staff have engaged and want to revisit this - intend to fix/add options. Only limit is staff capacity.

Public Comment:

- **Lisa F** - We need to act quickly: climate is urgent. We need to be smart too, so thanks for your work.
- **Lora wedge** – Thank you for your work – this is all important.

Adjournment:

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 PM, M/S/C.