

Energy Plan Commission

Meeting Minutes July 17th, 2024

Regular Meeting Conference Room 430

Attendance:

Commissioners: Gary Olson, Robert Reichert, and Brian Hinderliter

Absent: Tari Rayala, Scott Wishart, and Alison Hoxie

City Staff: Ted Blenkush, Mike LeBeau, Brett Crecelius, and Ella Stewart **Absent:** Mindy Granley, Jennifer Ondrik, Jim Filby Williams

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm by Commissioner Olson

Approval of May 15th Minutes: Commissioner Hinderliter moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Reichert

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Reichert moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Reichert

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Olson reached out to City Administrator Dave Montgomery a second time via email on 7/1/24 with no response. He asked if the Commission should meet with the Council as it is not moving forward with the Administration. Bret reminded the Commission about the Energy Futures grant which provides 1.5 staff to start the energy transition work. Commissioner Olson mentioned the State's carbon neutral goals and how we need to start looking at making this goal.

Commissioner Olson reached out to Jeff Schiltz (as a Duluth citizen) of ICS about the Incline Village project and asked the Commission if they should do anything. The Commissioners discussed the "Minnesota Building Decarbonization Analysis" which Commissioner Olson provided. Commissioner Reichert suggested for increased lobbying about updating the building code. Commissioner Olson also brought forward the Planning Commission's schedule and suggest looking at the Public Utilities Commission.

Commissioner Olson ask about the Commissioner vacancy. Ted reported that there was one application.

Old Business:

New Business:

Committee of the Whole Presentation: Mindy Granley presented to the Committee of the Whole on Jun 24th to share the annual Climate Action Work Plan progress. The presentation included the GHG update, current grants and progress, and an emphasis on needing capacity for managing volunteers and engaging with the community. Ella Stewart shared that the feedback from Councilors was extremely

positive and supports. Every councilor had either a question or compliment following the presentation. There was also high public attendance. Mindy would like to thank the Commission for informing her work. Commissioner Olson commented that he attended and felt that the presentation was very well received.

RACER Progress: 7 final sites selected, deployable about 2.2 MW. Applied for \$3.3 CSITE Grant Application for the Bayview Water Pump Reservoir. Integrated resilience plan. RFP ready for 2025 construction. Commissioner Reichert mentioned vandalism of solar sites. Brett mentioned the security on the site is ample with fencing. Commissioner Olson asked where the CSITE funding comes from and Brett said it is through the Inflation Reduction Act via the DOE.

Sustainability Updates: Brett updated commission on all the outstanding grants that have been applied for by the sustainability department. These grants included the CPRG grants, CSITE grant, 2 MPCA grants, Benchmarking from Commerce, Volkswagen charger. He also mentioned that the C-LEAP Report from NREL has not been released yet and that we are in the process of negotiating the contract for the Energy Futures Grant.

City Energy Updates: Ted Blenkush discussed the City Hall project, which as of 2 weeks ago, has active cooling and ventilation on all floors. The next steps include finishing the balancing controls, wrapping up a few smaller projects, creating instructions for staff to manage controls and developing maintenance plan. They hope to get more accurate readings of energy use on other City buildings. Mike LeBeau discussed lighting challenges. They are working on an energy modeling project with one of the senior centers. There is less support for the City to own, operate, and maintain public EV charging. MPCA funding has been offered to renew an existing fast charger at Canal Park. Ted discussed the start of developing a Conciliated Facilities Maintenance Plan which will meet next week. Commissioner Reichert asked about pairing solar with EV charging. Bret and Mike explained there is no current plan due to locations.

Public Comment: A member of the public thought it would be a great idea to connect with other Commissions to move things forward.

Future Meeting Topics:

- CLEAP Report if available
- Energy Efficiency and EV Charging

Adjournment: Commissioner Hinderliter moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Reichert seconded to adjourn at 4:52 pm