Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. **Introduction / Roll Call**
   Chair Ficek called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his request, Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.

   Present: Chair Bryant Ficek; and Members Jarrod Cicha, Nancy Misra, Mike Collins, Edwin Hodder, and Allison Luongo

   Absent: Member Michael Joyce (Excused)

   Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry, and Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson

2. **Public Comments**

3. **Approval of February 28, 2023 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 Cicha moved, Member Luongo seconded, approval of the February 28, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.

   Ayes: 5
   Nays: 0
   Motion carried.

   Member Hodder arrived at the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

4. **Election of Officers**
Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained that each year the Commission is asked to elect a chair, vice-chair and a member to serve on the Ethics Commission.

Chair Ficek asked for nominations for chair of the PWETC.

Chair Ficek indicated he would be happy to continue as Chair, but someone else could do it as well.

Motion
Member Misra moved, Member Hodder seconded, election of Ficek for Chair of the PWETC.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion carried.

Chair Ficek asked for nominations for vice-chair of the PWETC. He noted the current Vice-Chair Joyce is not at the meeting.

Mr. Freihammer indicated he has not heard from Commissioner Joyce.

Member Collins indicated he would be interested in Vice-Chair.

Motion
Member Collins moved, Member Cicha seconded, election of Collins for Vice-Chair of the PWETC.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion carried.

Chair Ficek asked if there were any Commissioners who wanted to volunteer for the Ethics Commission.

Motion
Member Hodder moved, Member Collins seconded, elect Hodder to serve on the Ethics Commission.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion carried.

5. **Communication Items**

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated March 28, 2023.

Mr. Freihammer introduced Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry to the Commission.

Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson updated the Commission on sustainability efforts being made in the city.

Member Collins asked if there are any measures the City uses if there is a fuel spill and is there a way the City checks for pond contamination and things like that.

Mr. Johnson explained that, when talking about actual spills, a lot of the PCA guidelines are followed. He reviewed the PCA guidelines. He noted when the spill is smaller it is up to the entity that spills it because those are not typically reported to the City.

Member Collins asked if the City has any baseline information on how much contaminates are in the ponds so after a spill happens the City knows how much it needs to remove.

Mr. Johnson indicated if there is a spill the City does get information in order to clean up the spill. It is visually inspected as well.

6. **Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit Update**

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained Senior Transit Planner, Steven Baisden, and Peter Lindstrom, area representative from the Metropolitan Council were at the meeting to share updates on transit and other projects in the area.

Member Misra wondered how many Met Council-like programs there are in other metro areas.

Mr. Lindstrom indicated there were not many. Nearly every large metropolitan area has something similar called a council of governments but the Met Council Minnesota has, there is maybe one similar organization across the whole Nation that has similar powers. Other councils of government may make transportation decisions about where federal funds should be spent in their city but they do not have powers over waste water, comprehensive land use planning, affordable housing, transit and transportation, like the Met Council has. The Met Council is unique in how the council is set up. Everyone on the Met Council is appointed by the Governor and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Mr. Baisden made a presentation to the Commission on Roseville Transit.

Member Luongo wondered how Metro Mobility related to Metro Transit.

Mr. Baisden explained Metro Mobility is technically under the umbrella of the Met Council. There is a federally-mandated service area that encompasses the entire seven county area and Metro Mobility has specific qualifications that need to be met by a perspective rider. Metro Mobility provides door-to-door service whereas fixed route service does not.

Mr. Lindstrom noted where there is a connection between Metro Transit and Metro Mobility it is all under the Met Council and they are required to provide Metro Mobility services within a certain area of a Metro Transit regular bus route.

Mr. Baisden indicated that is Transit Link. Metro Mobility is provided for the entire seven county areas. Transit Link has different stipulations for providing service.

Member Collins wondered if there were any plans of updating the current bus stops that are out of ADA compliance.

Mr. Baisden explained every new bus stop must be ADA compliant. Any bus stops that were in existence prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act in the early nineties, that is a situation where he believed is grandfathered in.

Mr. Baisden reviewed crime on Metro Transit and the steps they are taking to provide safe passage for people.

Member Misra asked how Metro Transit is approaching carbon goals and she also wondered about Micro Transit because it seemed at one point that had potential for taking off and she wondered if that is still the case.

Mr. Baisden explained they have a zero emissions bus plan which identifies how they are going to transition their fleet to more energy efficient resources by 2040. Regarding Micro Transit, it is currently considered a pilot project in North Minneapolis that has just recently expanded, and the pilot ends later in the year and at that point he thought they will end up determining, in part, what becomes of that service.

Chair Ficek asked for information on what Micro Transit was.

Mr. Baisden reviewed Micro Transit with the Commission.

Chair Ficek thanked Mr. Baisden and Mr. Lindstrom for the presentation and discussion.

7. 2023 Eureka Recycling Annual Update

Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson introduced Ms. Joanna Stone, Director of Customer Relations at Eureka, and Ms. Stone reviewed the highlights of the annual recycling report and gave a presentation on future recycling efforts.

Chair Ficek indicated Roseville is bi-weekly in its recycling and he wondered how it is decided between weekly and bi-weekly and the tradeoffs that might bring.

Ms. Stone stated it is a matter of cost; collecting half the City each week saves the City a lot of money.

Mr. Johnson explained from the City-wide level staff ended up looking at, the last time the RFP was looked at, and something staff will do this round too is looking at what every other week costs versus weekly costs. Staff also did work with Ramsey County on this as well.

Ms. Stone noted there is also the option to get more than one recycle cart, if needed, for the bi-weekly recycling pickup.

Member Hodder asked how Eureka helped the businesses at some of the events with compostables. How were the businesses guided to make sure what the customer was given was able to be recycled.

Ms. Stone explained that with the support of the City, the City actually buys the compostables for the events and her team goes to each business and asks a lot of questions about serving and condiments, so the items are ordered correctly and then the City covers the cost of the compostable, recyclable containers which lowers the barriers for the vendors as well.

Member Misra explained she really appreciated some of the things brought up at the beginning of the presentation, specifically some of the equity issues and the living wage issue. She thought those sort of considerations should factor into the City's determination as contracts are renewed, not just in this area, but others as well to meet the City's goals. The other thing is she remembered several years ago the whole shut down of the Chinese plastic market in particular and as she recalled, the fact that Eureka was doing so much of its selling locally it made a big difference and she knew in other parts of the Country there are cities shutting down way stream recycling because those cities do not have markets for it. She suspected Minnesota is doing better than a lot of other places because of those local markets. She encouraged Eureka and the City to continue to look at that as well.

Mr. Johnson explained, regarding diversity, equity and inclusion, staff included that in the last RFP. That was one of the first RFP's in the City that included it.

Chair Ficek thanked Ms. Stone for the presentation.

8. Commission Name Change Discussion

Chair Ficek explained this item is to discuss possible name changes to the Public Works Environment and Transportation Commission. He reviewed previous Commission discussion that occurred.

Mr. Freihammer noted the City Council did initiate a review of the Commissions. The City Council will discuss this at their April 24, 2023 meeting.

Chair Ficek reviewed the proposed changes on how to take the four scope, duties and functions of the Commission and change them into some other things or a different way to look at them. He indicated the first two remain the same, the highlighted portion is the change in name of the Commission. He explained the interest and understanding of the other regions is crossed out but will not prevent the Commission of doing it but does not need to be listed as a part of the scope of the Commission. The next three proposed changes in red are the new ones, "Collaborate with City staff to review, evaluate and develop policies and practices regarding sustainability and management of environmental resources." "Collaborate with City staff to review, evaluate and develop policies and practices regarding transportation infrastructure as it relates to the multi-model needs and demands of the community. This includes related public safety issues and coordination with the Traffic Safety Committee if necessary." And "Engage with the Roseville community and serve as a community liaison for issues, ideas and proposals while providing appropriate feedback." He indicated the last duties and functions item would remain the same. He asked for staff and Commission feedback and discussion.

Mr. Freihammer indicated offhand it seemed like good suggestions to him. He thought having the traffic safety is there. He reviewed what the Traffic Safety Committee does in the City.

Member Collins thought everything looked great and omitting the one part was reasonable and if the Commission wanted to still look at that it could do so.

Member Luongo asked what the Ordinance says that is referenced in the crossed out part (ORD.1313,12.6.2004).

Mr. Freihammer explained all of section 206 is what the existing public works is. He thought the ordinance is just referencing them working with other agencies. He agreed that is kind of inherent with the job and could be listed but the City, as a whole, is always working with outside agencies.

Chair Ficek explained if the Commission went this route he assumed it would reference some ordinances once finalized.

Mr. Freihammer indicated that was correct. He indicated if the Commission recommended something to the City Council, the Council would more than likely have to amend Chapter 206 as an Ordinance change.

Member Misra indicated she liked it as well. She thought what was still valuable to keep and helpful for the Commission is to have some sort of language that connects the Commission with federal, state, county, and regional entities because so much of what the Commission does is connected to other bodies and it is not really a Roseville decision. It almost always involves some other entity. She thought that language is valuable to keep a highlight on the fact that the Commission needs to look beyond just Roseville borders, especially when it comes to environment, transportation and those sort of things, but environment in particular is not local, it is very much broader than that.

Member Hodder agreed. He liked the overall intent of this as well and he thought Member Misra's point is very well taken. He would support leaving the crossed-out point in somewhere in this.

Member Cicha indicated he liked the word collaborate that was used in C and D. His suggestion would be instead of "maintain an interest in and an understanding of," he would change it to "Collaborate with federal, state, county, regional, and other public works, environmental, and transportation services that impact City services." He thought that was a good way of summing up how the Commission interacts with those organizations. He liked the additions of the new C, D, and E and felt these were appropriate and thought making a recommendation to the City Council today would also be appropriate. It is a recommendation, and the Council will look at it and make their own edits as well. He thought this is a good framework to hand the Council.

The Commission concurred.

Chair Ficek summarized discussion of the Council. He thought that new Item C could read: "Collaborate with City staff, and federal, state, county, regional, other public works, as needed…".

Member Misra indicated new Item C is only regarding sustainability and management of environmental resources.

Chair Ficek indicated the reworked sentence would also be added into Item D as well so it would cover both of those in order to not only collaborate with City staff but to also capture other agencies.

Member Misra indicated she would consider going with the new Items C, D and E and then just move it further down and change the verb from Maintain an interest in and an understanding to collaborate but leave the rest of that as a separate Item F and then move Item F to Item G.

The Commission agreed.

Motion
Member Hodder moved, Member Luongo seconded, to recommend the City Council the proposed changes in 206.2: Scope, Duties and Functions.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion carried.

Chair Ficek indicated the name has not been touched. He wondered if the Commission wanted to review the name change now or wait to see what comes out of the Council.

Member Collins thought the Commission should wait to see what the City Council decides before moving forward.

9. Future Agenda Items

Discussion ensued regarding the future PWETC agenda:

April 2023

- Speed limits
- Pavement Management update

May 2023

- Tour

June 2023

- MS4 update
- Sustainability Topic
- Prep for Joint Council meeting in July

Future

- Envision Roseville

Chair Ficek thanked Member Misra for her time on the Commission and appreciated her perspective and point of view that she brought to the Commission.

Member Misra thought this was a great Commission to serve on and the staff has been really professional and very supportive of the work the Commission has done and she thought that has been remarkable. She thanked staff and the Commission.

10. Adjourn

Motion
Member Collins moved, Member Misra seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion carried.