

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 25, 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, Edwin Hodder, and Des Mueller

Absent: Member Mike Collins, Allison Luongo (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; and Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of June 27, 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.

Member Mueller indicated there was a comment on the minutes that she made, and it was attributed to Commissioner Luongo. She noted she will send the change to staff.

Motion

Member Cicha moved, Member Hodder seconded, approval of the June 27, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated July 25, 2023.

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken updated the Commission on sustainability projects.

Member Mueller asked about the work being done at the pond, she knew the weir needed to be adjusted and she wondered when that would happen.

Mr. Freihammer indicated the weir is adjusted properly but when installed there is some leakage going around the side of it and that needs to be corrected because too much water is leaking.

Member Hodder asked how the Fairview project is coming along.

Mr. Freihammer explained the ramps have been opened a couple of days ahead of schedule and he has not heard of any delays, so he anticipates this to be done around August 18th.

Chair Ficek asked regarding the ped study on Snelling if the Commission could learn more about that or be involved in that.

Mr. Freihammer explained staff can set up a meeting. He reviewed the progress to date.

5. St. Paul Regional Water Presentation

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer introduced Che Fie Chen and Justine Roe from St. Paul Regional Water Services who gave a presentation to the Commission.

Chair Ficek thanked Ms. Chen and Ms. Roe for the presentation.

Member Mueller thanked Ms. Chen and Ms. Roe for coming to the meeting. She indicated the presentation was fascinating. She noted she has the opportunity to tour the existing facility a couple of years ago and it was so interesting and was glad the tour is offered to the public. She thought it was always good to know where the city's water is coming from and understand the process and have that true appreciation for everything St. Paul Regional Water does. In preparation for the meeting, she was excited to read that St. Paul Regional Water is adding advanced oxidation and to go through the benefits of adding that. She indicated one question she had regarding the fluoride is in the presentation it was stated that the State requires fluoride be added to the water and she wondered where the fluoride is sourced from.

Ms. Roe explained it is a State law that fluoride has to be added to the water and St. Paul Water Services gets its fluoride from Hawkins Chemicals. This is

hydrofluoric acid. She indicated she would be happy to send the data sheet to the Commission.

Member Hodder asked about the PFAS issue and microplastics and how these will be addressed going forward in the future.

Ms. Chen updated the Commission on microplastics and did not believe there will be any future issues with microplastics, but she indicated PFAS will be an issue because the current treatment process, including the update being done, will not include the PFAS issue because the chemical structure itself does not react, attach, or degrade by logical processes. She reviewed an ion exchange process that would deal with the PFAS issue if installed in the future, which is very costly.

6. Climate Action Plan Update

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken and Sustainability Interns Andrea Ray and Raynell Hong updated the Commission on the Climate Action Plan.

Member Mueller thought this was a great presentation and what the City is doing as well as helping the greater area outside of Roseville.

Member Hodder explained he likes to see the students involved in the process. He stated the focus on the equity measures is very important.

Chair Ficek asked what the Commission can do in advance to prepare for the climate action frame.

Ms. Bakken explained she planned on continuing to provide updates on the process, especially if there are events, she thought it would be nice to have the Commission there to do some outreach. She would also like feedback from the Commission on how they are doing.

Chair Ficek thanked staff for the presentation.

7. City Council Joint Meeting Review

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided an update to the Commission on the joint City Council meeting.

Chair Ficek thought attachment three is a good one to discuss and he wondered if there are other topics the Commission would like to discuss.

Mr. Freihammer explained a few other topics that have occurred in the past that could be discussed are maintenance funding, solar production analysis and audit, ideal street design standards and overall urban forestry and Emerald Ash Borer update.

Members Mueller and Hodder indicated they were interested in Emerald Ash Borer and tree plantings in the city.

Chair Ficek asked if the revolving loan policy was enough to bring to a future meeting for an update or topic for discussion.

Mr. Freihammer provided a quick update on the revolving loan policy.

Chair Ficek thought the Commission could talk about public safety items in the future.

Staff reviewed some possible future facility tours including St. Paul Water, and Eureka Recycling Center.

Chair Ficek suggested adding to the discussion list the bike network, wayfinding signs, transit update, fiber internet, mowing ordinance, ideal street design, and road maintenance and financing.

Staff quickly updated the Commission on Chair Ficek's suggestions and what future agenda each topic might be on.

8. Items for Next Meeting – August 22, 2023

Discussion ensued regarding the August PWETC agenda:

- Discuss PWET Commission's Role/Scope
- Take Out Containers
- Street Name Change
- Ideal Street Standards update

9. Adjourn

Motion

Member Hodder moved, Member Mueller seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:16 p.m.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.