

# **Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes**

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Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

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## **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; Vice Chair Des Mueller; and Members Jarrod Cicha, Daniel Fergus, Edwin Hodder, Allison Luongo, and Sarah Rudolf

**Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken, and Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson

## **2. Public Comments**

None.

## **3. Approval of January 23, 2024 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 Hodder moved, Member Cicha seconded, approval of the January 23, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.**

**Ayes: 7**

**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 February 20, 2024.

Member Hodder asked how Lead Free Roseville is going.

Mr. Freihammer indicated it is going slower than staff was hoping. He believed twenty-seven percent of the people have submitted, which is ok, but he was hoping that number would be closer to fifty by now. Staff is in the process of sending out letters to people who have not responded. He noted there are ten confirmed lead surfaces in Roseville and are all still in one isolated neighborhood.

Chair Ficek indicated in the update it talked about removing City-owned bus shelters; he asked staff to expand on that.

Mr. Freihammer explained that in the late 1990's, early 2000's, when Larpenteur was reconstructed and streetscape was put in, the City installed four bus shelters. One was removed years ago due to the wind and was not replaced, but there is one at Hamline, one at Fernwood and another is at Lexington and all of them are in disrepair and in need of replacement. Staff did look at the usage data and these did not meet the criteria for replacement. He noted the one that did meet the criteria, Fernwood, will be transferred to the Met Council and the Met Council will install their own shelter at that location.

#### **5. Green Step Cities/Gold Leaf Program**

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken and Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson quickly recapped the Green Step Cities/Gold Leaf Programs and introduced Kristin Mroz from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The PWETC received a presentation from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staff about the GreenStep Cities Program and Gold Leaf Challenge.

The Commission asked questions regarding the Gold Leaf Program.

Chair Ficek thanked Ms. Mroz for the presentation.

#### **6. Sustainability Super Meeting**

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken and Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson gave a presentation on sustainability programs.

Ms. Bakken explained the purpose of the Green Team and reviewed the sustainability timeline and projects.

Chair Ficek asked if the 2040 goals and how the City is doing was on the website.

Ms. Bakken indicated it was not, it is an aspiration that the City would like to be adding to the website at some point in the future.

Member Hodder asked if the City is seeing the savings anticipated on the solar campus, as far as production goes.

Ms. Bakken thought the panels were producing as much as the City was expecting. She continued with the presentation updating the Commission on the Partners in Energy program.

Member Fergus indicated it was mentioned a few times in the presentation about the curbside organics and he was excited this is coming. He asked if there was any word on how this program is going where it has been implemented.

Ms. Bakken explained it is fully rolled out in North St. Paul and Maplewood and she believed one more city in Washington County and it sounds like it is going well, and City staff is excited for it.

Vice Chair Mueller explained she is very passionate and excited about this whole initiative and appreciated that staff is being really conscientious about business owners and what it would take for them to fulfill these obligations. She thought it is great to get Styrofoam out of circulation but thinking to some of the restaurants and if they are going to be having readily compostable materials, is the City going to also add in some sort of requirement for the business to be offering recycling or compost onsite because all of this is a big push if there is not a collection mechanism in place and she did not want to push something and have that burden if there is not a long-term solution for what is going to happen to the materials after that initial action.

Ms. Bakken explained that is one thing the City has in the draft ordinance, there will be a requirement that if the business has any kind of dine in service there will have to be trash, recycling and compost available and most commercial hauling services do offer a composting option.

Member Rudolph wondered how the City does compared to Eureka on recycling.

Mr. Johnson discussed with the Commission the actions Roseville has taken with recycling and noted that Roseville has one of the best recycling programs in the State.

Chair Ficek indicated he really liked the idea of the City Energy Resource Fair. He also saw a reference to Complete Streets that he was in favor of, but he also heard somewhat of a move to a complete network.

Ms. Bakken thought that is very connected to the bike plan/active transportation plan staff has been working on.

Member Luongo knew that the PWETC is the Green Team and that made sense, but she wondered if there is another commission that should be included in this. One commission that came to her mind is the Planning Commission because of the land use role.

Ms. Bakken explained staff has been working with Community Development a lot on this. One thing that was proposed last year and did not go through Council was

introducing sustainable development incentives. Council was not ready for something like that yet but was put in the back of everyone's mind to continue to work on.

Member Luongo thought parking codes should be reviewed by the PWETC.

Ms. Bakken thought that could be something the PWETC could discuss and then be brought forward.

Member Rudolph thought staff could contact the local schools to include the ROS climate group in some of the conversations.

Chair Ficek asked if the public would like to speak on this item.

**Ms. Cynthia White, Roseville**

Ms. White explained she is concerned with the water and sustainability, and she did not hear anything about this during the presentation. She would like to see a consideration for water sustainability in future topics.

Ms. Bakken thought that is an area of opportunity for the City. She indicated the City is a part of the EPA Water Sense Group. The group provides different ideas of ways to engage, but the City has not really had the capacity to move forward on some of those things.

Chair Ficek thanked staff for the presentation.

**7. Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the Future PWETC agendas for March, April, and May.

**a. March 26:**

- Update on Envision Roseville
- Bike Plan

**b. April 23:**

- Swearing in New Commissioners
- Green to Go update
- Annual Recycling Report
- Pavement Funding/Asset Management

**c. May 28:**

- MSA4 Annual Meeting

## **8. Adjourn**

### **Motion**

**Member Hodder moved, Member Rudolph seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:22 p.m.**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**