

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 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; Vice Chair Des Mueller; and Members Jarrod Cicha, Edwin Hodder, Allison Luongo and Sarah Rudolf

Absent: Member Daniel Fergus (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; and Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of February 20, 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 February 20, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

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 indicated he would be happy to continue as Chair but someone else could do it as well. He asked if there are any other nominations for chair of the PWETC.

Motion

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Vice Chair Mueller indicated she was not interested in continuing as Vice Chair of the PWETC.

Chair Ficek asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the PWETC.

Member Hodder indicated he would be interested in the Vice Chair position.

Motion

Chair Ficek moved, Vice Chair Mueller seconded, election of Hodder 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.

Member Cicha indicated he would be interested as a representative of the Ethics Commission.

Motion

Member Ficek moved, Member Luongo seconded, elect Cicha to serve on the Ethics Commission.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Chair Ficek asked if there were any Commissioners to volunteer for a one-time Zoom meeting to help update the Commissioner handbook.

Vice Chair Mueller indicated she would volunteer for this meeting.

5. Communication Items

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated March 20, 2024.

Member Hodder commented on the watermain “Lead Free Roseville” program. He noted he filled out the information but it did not seem go through and he had to resubmit so he wanted staff to be aware of that.

Mr. Freihammer indicated there have been a few issues and the site provider is trying to fix it. He provided additional updates to the Commission.

Chair Ficek updated the Commission on the Green To Go survey on its website. April 7 is the six Rs of recycling event and on April 27 is the Clean Up and Clothing Recycling.

6. Bike Plan Introduction

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry explained Roseville was awarded an Active Transportation Planning Assistance grant from MnDOT that Roseville will use to create a bike plan that complements the existing Pathway Master Plan.

Member Rudolph asked as the bike planning process moves along, if there has been any consideration of a parallel track of communication. Maybe there is an opportunity to include in the engagement how people like to learn about these kinds of things and what that could look like.

Ms. Lowry explained that a lot of cities are using the active transportation planning grant for an active transportation plan, which typically has education and infrastructure and enforcement elements to it. It is a little different that the City is delivering a bike plan. The application was more tied to the actual planning and identifying of routes and prioritizing them. She did not think that precludes conversations about opportunities and resources for the education. She noted this is definitely something that can be discussed and not sure if it will be something that will be delivered at the end of this, but if there is support for it and the City has the resources, even just time to do it, she would like to look at it some more.

Member Rudolph indicated in her opinion, bikers do not need to learn about using bike lanes, drivers do.

Ms. Lowry agreed but unless it is a part of required training, she thought that the people who are disrespectful to bicyclists are the ones who would be coming to any kind of training. She thought it is something useful to talk through with the communication staff, if there is something that can be put in newsletters to reach people passively.

Mr. Freihammer explained that, as staff is getting feedback on the bike plan, staff can use the feedback to follow up with people regarding the bike lanes and how the public should interact with them. The City will certainly work with the County as well to get as much promotion as possible. Ultimately, there will be the committee, but the City will also use the Commission as a whole to review the bike plan and the overall goal would be the Commission recommend adoption of a bike plan.

7. Dale Street Update

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer gave a presentation on the Dale Street Safety Conversion Project.

The Commission asked general questions regarding the crosswalks and lighting.

Vice Chair Mueller asked what the impact is to the stormwater system if the road keeps breaking down and disintegrating and keeps getting pushed down into the storm drains.

Mr. Freihammer explained this is a maintenance issue but, generally, the County, when reconstructing roadways, is getting away from bituminous curb. This project is not a reconstruct, it is a resurfacing which is why the County is maintaining it only. Hopefully, the next time the road is resurfaced it will be a reconstruct and that issue will go away.

8. Envision Roseville Update

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer updated the Commission on the Envision Roseville project.

Chair Ficek indicated he is open to however staff wants to proceed with this topic.

Mr. Freihammer reviewed some of the proposed projects with the Commission.

Member Hodder indicated he was on the advisory group, and he thought it was very comprehensive and he was very impressed with the engagement efforts and the different stakeholders that were brought into the process. He thought the envisioning process was helpful and this was very well done.

Mr. Freihammer continued to update the Commission on the different projects.

Chair Ficek asked what the next steps that come out of this will be and how this will be used in the city, what will the outcome be.

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the steps moving forward with the Commission.

Member Hodder thought the safety issues pointed out were interesting, particularly around Har Mar. He did drill into that a little more and just how the businesses were feeling and other things that caught his attention.

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the higher priority items in the Envision project plan.

Member Rudolph thought this was a good plan and easy to read and imagine what that might be like, but achieving it might be a little trickier.

Chair Ficek asked what staff would like to see from the Commission in regard to this plan.

Mr. Freihammer guessed if the Commission agreed with the general comments or if there is something missing to bring them forward to staff.

9. Future Agenda Items

Discussion ensued regarding PWETC future agenda topics:

- April 23
 - Annual Recycling Report
 - Transit/Micro Transit Update
- May 28
 - MS4 Annual Meeting
- June 25
 - Prep for Joint Council meeting
 - Pavement Management Funding – Asset Management

Chair Ficek thought another topic to review is the speed limits.

Mr. Freihammer indicated he will look through the minutes for the direction the Council gave to staff.

Chair Ficek thought the safety aspect of the City's Police and Fire Departments and hot spots around and how they respond and emergency routes.

Mr. Freihammer indicated staff will talk to the departments to try to figure out a meeting for them to come to discuss that.

10. Adjourn

Motion

Vice Chair Mueller moved, Member Rudolph seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:07 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.