

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 25, 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 Edwin Hodder; Members Jarrod Cicha, Des Mueller; Youth Member Carsten Bauer

Absent: Member Allison Luongo (Excused), Sarah Rudolf (Excused), Fergus; Youth Member Alexi Jendro

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry; City Manager Patrick Trudgeon

2. Public Comments

3. Approval of May 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Prior to tonight's meeting, the comments and corrections to the draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners, and those revisions were incorporated into the draft presented in the meeting materials.

Motion

Vice Chair Hodder moved, Member Mueller seconded, approval of the May 28, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. 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 June 25, 2024.

Chair Ficek indicated he attended the Rosefest Parade, and he thought it was wonderful. He thanked the City staff and all of the volunteers. He thought it was well attended and it seemed like everyone was having a good time.

5. Civic Campus Master Plan Update

City Manager Patrick Trudgeon gave a presentation to the Commission on the Civic Campus Master Plan.

Vice Chair Hodder indicated that currently there are solar panels on the maintenance facility and he wondered if they will be transferred to the new facility.

Mr. Trudgeon explained that is the intent and should still be in good shape.

Mr. Freihammer indicated the solar panels are designed to be modular so would be taken out of time for the service and coordination of phases. The new facility would theoretically have more space to expand the solar in the future.

Chair Ficek explained thinking about sustainability as a whole, is the City looking at other options or touring other facilities that are being built around the metro. He asked how the City is viewing this.

Mr. Trudgeon explained the City wants to embrace as much sustainability as possible. He indicated the City staff has not ventured too far into this yet but he thought if the referendum does pass the City will start looking at those alternatives and look at touring facilities. He thought this was very important to lead by example and he thought there would be direct conversations and a high priority by City staff.

Member Mueller wondered if any special considerations were being made. She knew that there was a gas station in that area, and she wondered how that would factor into these plans. She felt there would be a lot of costs involved.

Mr. Trudgeon explained the process the City made when purchasing the land. He was not sure if the City would be able to do a direct swap, but the City will look at this in more depth.

Member Mueller explained her concern was once the City gets in there, what additional costs would there be for cleanup or addressing possible contamination?

Mr. Trudgeon agreed, and the staff feel they have a fair understanding of what is there, they do not know, and he thought the City needs to be prepared for that. Beyond that, the City is not aware of any other environmental concerns.

Chair Ficek indicated with the maintenance facility moving to a new spot, he knew the City staff has had some conversations with residents in that area and he asked

Mr. Trudgeon to touch on that a little bit because there will be heavy machinery operating where there was once a park.

Mr. Trudgeon indicated that is a real valid concern. He explained as a part of the master planning process and design there was some direct engagement with the neighbors. The neighborhood was very concerned about having a maintenance facility instead of a park. The City is trying to work proactively with the residents to address those concerns. The City needs to continue to work with the residents and try to mitigate concerns as much as possible. That will be the biggest issue with this project.

Chair Ficek explained one of the graphics showed the property tax versus the sales tax and he wondered if that implied if the sales tax does not go through, that is what the City would be looking at to fund this.

Mr. Trudgeon explained that would be the only option for the City, to bond to themselves and have that backed by property taxes. He wants to be very careful and not mislead anybody. He thought that if the sales tax did not pass the only option would be to charge it to property taxes, like what the City did with the Fire Station and park improvements. That would add to everyone's tax bill. The seventy-six point nine million dollars is what the City estimates. He would advocate for another conversation about looking at the project to do things to limit that cost because it would be one hundred percent born by the taxpayers and everyone in the City would need to make sure if there was anything that could be value-engineered out. The City staff does not think any extras are needed in the plan, but he thought it would be important to revisit that. That would be the only option the City would have in front of them.

Chair Ficek asked if the City could go to a referendum again in a future year if it were to fail or would push everything out too far.

Mr. Trudgeon explained the City would not be able to go for another referendum for sales tax unless the City got Legislative approval again. The question is open to if the City goes to a referendum to the voters to bond for it and have it on property taxes. In 2012, it did not go to the voters that preceded him in this particular role but he recalled there was what is called a port authority. Port Authority is a bonding mechanism that the City can use. In that case, it did go to the Port Authority. There is a way that the City can do that without going for a referendum. It is a policy choice for the City Council.

Chair Ficek thanked Mr. Trudgeon for coming and presenting this to the Commission.

6. Bike Plan Update

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry updated the Commission on the City bike plan.

Chair Ficek indicated he was a part of this planning and he thanked all of the residents who came out and he thought there were great groups. He thought people brought up some great points and were invested in it and a lot of them were bikers and many were trying to look at ways to improve the community.

The Commission thought the bike plan looked good.

Vice Chair Hodder indicated concerning the protective barriers, how do the snowplows negotiate them in the winter?

Ms. Lowry explained some cities take the barriers down and in other cities, it is expected that some will be destroyed. That is part of what this demonstration project will be very helpful in and what the City staff talked to the consultants about. She noted the City needs to discuss this with the County as well because some are on County roads and she expects the barriers to be kept up throughout one winter to be a learning opportunity for future projects.

The Commission discussed with staff bike path priorities in the City.

7. City Survey – Public Works Review

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer presented the City Survey regarding the Public Works Department.

Chair Ficek asked if the answers given in the phone survey? Were there open answers?

Mr. Freihammer explained certain questions had options and others had yes or no answers as well as rating the question given. He continued with reviewing the survey questions and answers with the Commission.

Chair Ficek thought this was a lot of information and wondered if the public could look at the survey information on the City website.

Mr. Freihammer indicated the information is in the City Council packet as well as the PWETC packet and he would check to see if it was posted somewhere on the City website.

8. Prepare for PWETC/City Council Joint Meeting

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer indicated the Commission is scheduled to meet with the City Council on July 22. The Commission is asked to create a list of topics to discuss with the City Council to be included in the July 22, 2024, Council packet.

Chair Ficek asked the Commission who would be attending the meeting. He noted he will be attending.

Vice Chair Hodder indicated he would be at the meeting.

Member Mueller indicated she had a conflict and would not be there.

Member Cicha indicated he was not sure yet if he would be able to attend the meeting.

Chair Ficek indicated he could make a presentation for the Council.

Chair Ficek asked the Commission what they feel is the value of being on the Commission and how can that be expressed to the City Council. He also thought what is important to discuss with the City Council from the rubric is what would be next for the PWETC, what are the important things the City Council is hearing and where does the Commission go from there.

Member Mueller thought that was a great idea. She indicated she was trying to tie this back to when Mayor Roe came and talked to the Commission and what direction is the Council going with the Commission. It seems like the Council is trying to better define the entire purpose of the Commissions.

Chair Ficek thought that was a part of it and that the Commission needed direction. He was trying to think about more of the experience and value. What do the Commissioners see as value by being on the Commission? He indicated he has enjoyed learning more about the City while being on the Commission with the tours and other topics discussed. Being able to bring that information to his neighbors and other residents in the community. There is a tangible benefit he feels with being involved. He thought it would be interesting for the Commissioners to be at the joint meeting and tell the Council what they saw as being valuable and what had been learned on the Commission.

Vice Chair Hodder indicated to him; that it gets to the mission of the Commission. All of the different facets of what the Commission does and all of the things that people do not see. To him, that is what is important.

Chair Ficek thought with only four members being at the meeting, he wondered if questions could be sent to the Commissioners to get answers back to staff to provide an update to him to present at the joint meeting.

Member Mueller thought that was a good point because the Commission could provide an update on high-level topics the Commission has reviewed over the past year, but the City Council already has that information. She thought Chair Ficek's idea would bring another layer to this. She would also like to point out how wonderful the staff was because City staff always bring so much to the Commission and show what is happening throughout the City with the pillars that

the Commission is covering. She thought it would be nice to have that story to tell the Council.

Chair Ficek agreed. He thought he would like to go in that direction and asked City staff for some help.

Mr. Freihammer indicated he would work with Chair Ficek on this and would also attach what the Commission has worked on for the Council packet.

Chair Ficek asked what the Commission wanted to discuss with the Council on what should be tackled in the next year.

Mr. Freihammer thought that is a good question to bring forward to the City Council because it is up to the Council what the Commission needs to be involved in.

Member Mueller indicated one of the questions she has had was how the Commission is partnering with parks and other commissions or areas in the City that are all touching on the environment in different ways and how can the Commission be more impactful. She thought Ms. Bakken did such a great job in her role and the outreach but she felt that sometimes talking about trees, as a part of the environmental piece, also falls under the Park Commission's purview. She wondered what the Council's vision is for the topics that overlap.

Chair Ficek thought that was a good topic to bring up to the City Council.

Member Mueller explained the Commission was going to talk about pavement management funding at one of the future meetings and this was something she has wanted to talk to the City Council about. She indicated she wanted to dig into this and wondered what the City Council's thoughts were regarding this.

Mr. Freihammer indicated staff does need to review this and find out what the long-term funding for this was and would need to bring it forward to the Commission.

Mr. Freihammer thought he had a good idea and would coordinate with who would be at the joint meeting and would send out information to the Commissioners.

9. Items for Next Meeting – July 30, 2024

Discussion ensued regarding the future PWETC agenda:

July Meeting

- SPRWS Presentation
- Climate Action Planning Update

August Meeting

- Green to Go Introduction and Overview
- Street Name Change Update
- Discuss Commission Scope
- Street Design Standards
- State Fair Parking

September Meeting

- EAB Update
- AARP Walk Audit
- Bench Ordinance
- CEE Program Update

10. Adjourn

Motion

Member Cicha moved, Member Mueller seconded, adjournment of the meeting to the St. Paul Regional Water Plant Tour on July 1, 2024, at approximately 8:46 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.