

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 23, 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, Allison Luongo, Des Mueller Sarah Rudolf; and Youth Commissioner Carson Bauer

Absent: Member Daniel Fergus, Alexi Jendro (Excused)

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

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of June 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC Members prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions were incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

Motion

Member Hodder moved, Member Luongo seconded approval of the June 25, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 6

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 23, 2024.

5. Green To Go Update

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken updated Green To Go and a proposed ordinance.

Member Mueller wondered how people heard about the survey or how people were targeted.

Ms. Bakken explained the City advertised it heavily on the City's social media and went up on the Facebook page a few times as well as the Citywide printed newsletter and in her sustainability newsletter. She indicated staff also went to the Farmers Market one day and did a live outreach talking with people about that. There were also fliers distributed at events about the survey.

The Commission discussed compostable versus recyclable to-go containers with staff.

Ms. Bakken continued with her presentation on food-related inspections, ordinance recommendations, and next steps.

Member Rudolph thanked Ms. Bakken for calling out the equity considerations and biases because it helped to offer some depth. She wondered if there would be an opportunity at Roseville Mall to have some type of “No Waste Day” or something like that to promote the recycling of to-go containers.

Ms. Bakken indicated that this is an interesting suggestion and worth exploring.

Member Mueller explained one thing that she was interested in with a shift in the culture around to-go food is encouraging businesses to conserve excess condiments or silverware per to-go orders because that has a big impact on trash.

Ms. Bakken thought that was a good thing to consider and she thought training and education would help with that.

Chair Ficek asked when Ms. Bakken was looking to bring this forward to the City Council.

Ms. Bakken indicated staff is hoping to meet with the City Council in August or September. She asked the Commission if there was anything she missed that should be worked on to include in the presentation to the City Council to let her know.

Member Rudolph thought as City staff moves toward creating the ordinance and instituting this it might be interesting to look into speaking with a handful of restaurants in Minneapolis, for example, maybe one that was onboard, one that was reluctant, and one in between to hear from them on what they thought and how

things are going now and also what suggestions would they have for staff in helping Roseville restaurants do the same.

Ms. Bakken indicated she liked the suggestion and City staff did try to reach out to a smaller group of restaurants that included some restaurants in Roseville that also have a presence in Minneapolis or St. Louis Park to get that specific perspective, but staff heard back from one person of the twenty-five she reached out to. She understood restaurants are very busy and may not have time to respond. She indicated she will look into the suggestion in the next couple of weeks.

Member Luongo thought Ms. Bakken did great outreach work. She asked if the City has something set up to get translation services for the educational aspect of this.

Ms. Bakken indicated the City does have resources for that.

Chair Ficek opened up the conversation for public comment.

Ms. Jake Lavene, Bar Manager at Chianti Grill, thought the presentation was great and would like to be sustainable. He indicated the cost is going to be difficult and he thought his restaurant was very sustainable already. He indicated on the compost side of things he wondered how big the compost container would be and where is it supposed to go.

Ms. Bakken explained the restaurant could start with a smaller container to learn what is compostable because it is already being thrown in the trash. The key is to have a container with a lid. She noted trash is taxed but compost and recycling are not and eventually the restaurant may be able to save costs by getting a smaller dumpster for garbage.

Mr. Lavene thought it was important to let people know about the \$10,000 grant and he wondered how the City saw the execution of this being done.

Ms. Bakken explained if the City Council approved this, she would want to do another outreach with restaurants and explain what will be required and the timeframe.

Mr. Joe Wozniak, 718 Sexton Avenue, indicated he was on the PWETC when this project first started, and he has kept in touch with Ms. Bakken and likes how it has progressed and wants to see this move forward and help wherever he can.

The Commission thanked Ms. Bakken for the presentation.

6. Sustainability Intern Project Update

Sustainability Intern Evelyn Ankrum introduced herself to the Commission and provided her background on sustainability and projects she has been doing during the summer in the city.

Member Mueller indicated she was impressed with everything described in the presentation given and the confidence being exuded when talking about the projects.

Chair Ficek agreed and was excited about an updated Green Remodeling Plan Book. He looked forward to seeing her work being done in the city.

7. City Council Joint Meeting Review – Update Work Plan

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer recapped the City Council Joint meeting.

Chair Ficek reviewed the items discussed at the City Council joint meeting.

The PWEC discussed the work plan updates and future projects to work on with staff.

8. Future Agenda Items

Discussion ensued regarding future PWETC agendas:

- Public Safety update at the August 27, 2024 meeting
- Pavement Funding – Asset Management
- Transit/Micro Transit update

9. Adjourn

Motion

Member Hodder moved, Member Luongo seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:32 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.