

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 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 Edwin Hodder; Members Jarrod Cicha, Daniel Fergus, Allison Luongo, Des Mueller and Sarah Rudolf; and Youth Commissioners Carson Bauer and Alexi Jendro

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry and Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of October 22, 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 Fergus seconded, to approve the October 22, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 7

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 November 20, 2024.

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken updated the Commission on the City Council-approved sustainability items.

5. Public Safety

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry introduced Deputy Police Chief Joe Adams and Assistant Fire Chief Neil Sjostrom, who discussed topics related to public safety with the Commission.

Member Rudolf asked for clarification on what the Crime Watch signs in neighborhoods reflect.

Deputy Police Chief Adams explained the purpose of the Crime Watch signs throughout the City.

Chair Ficek asked how the coordination works between all three departments in the City when there is a crash.

Ms. Lowry reviewed the City's process for coordinating problems when a resident calls in.

Chair Ficek asked for an update on the electric fire truck and whether the Police Department planned to try out electric vehicles.

Assistant Fire Chief Sjostrom reviewed the Fire Department's process in deciding why an electric fire truck would improve ergonomics and vehicle drive.

Deputy Police Chief Adams explained that the City is not quite there yet with the general patrol response but is on board with sustainability. The vehicles are not yet designed to be public safety but are retrofitted. Now, it is not quite there.

Deputy Police Chief Adams and Assistant Fire Chief Sjostrom concluded their public safety review with the Commission.

Chair Ficek thanked the Roseville Fire Department and Police Department for coming to the meeting to discuss public safety in the City.

6. 2025 Public Works Work Plan

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry and Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken presented the 2025 Public Works work plan.

Chair Ficek asked how this plan compares to last year.

Ms. Lowry explained that she did not get through all the dollar amount comparisons but thought it was similar in that most of the work is paving, and there are more significant projects.

7. Less Mow May

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken presented information to the Commission regarding Less Mow May. She requested that the Commission discuss the recommendations for Less Mow May and future pollinator protection strategies.

Member Mueller indicated she loved this approach and thought it was common sense and going in the direction she wanted to see. She thought this was approachable and going in the right direction. She noted this will also save people money in the long run.

Member Fergus wondered if the word “mow” should be left out of the title as the City is rebranding this. He thought it would help people be less confused about this.

Ms. Bakken thought that was a perfect point because there is much more to it than just mowing. She noted that the City has a Less Mow May landing page online and thought this was a natural place to put all the recommendations. There are already links to the Watershed District grant programs for many of these initiatives.

The Commission discussed possible events to inform residents of maintenance and pollinators and engage people in the sustainability of their lawns.

Member Fergus thought it would be beneficial to set aside an area or edge of the lawn for native plants.

Ms. Bakken concluded the topic by explaining that knowing that the Commission supports it will help frame how the City moves forward. She thought staff would rework the website and work with communications to put out more information throughout the season to let people know what to do.

Chair Ficek thanked Ms. Bakken for the presentation.

8. Miscellaneous Project Updates

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry reviewed miscellaneous project updates with the Commission.

The Commission and staff discussed the Snelling/County Road B pedestrian study and short and long-term concepts.

Ms. Lowry updated the Commission on the bike plan timeline and next steps.

9. 2025 PWET Commission Meeting Dates

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry reviewed the 2025 PWET Commission meeting dates with the Commission.

Motion

Member Cicha moved, Vice Chair Hodder seconded, approving the 2025 PWET Commission meeting dates as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

10. Future Agenda Items

Discussion ensued regarding the future PWETC agenda:

- January 28, 2025 - Sustainability Super Meeting and Assessment Policy
- February 25, 2025 – Nothing scheduled
- Bike Plan
- Pathway Master Plan Updates
- Pavement Asset Management

11. Adjourn

Motion

Member Fergus moved, Member Rudolf seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:54 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.