



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA

Thursday, September 19, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Coon Rapids City Center

Civic A

Call to Order

Roll Call

Adopt Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes

Old Business

2. EV Stations Research and Promotion: Next Steps

New Business

Other Business

3. Staff Updates
4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

Adjourn



Sustainability Commission - Regular

1.

Meeting Date: 09/19/2024

SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes from August 15 meeting.

Attachments

August 15 Minutes

COON RAPIDS SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 15, 2024

The August 15, 2024 meeting of the Sustainability Commission was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Kate Anderson, Chris Backes, Keygan McClellan, Lynne Riley, Josh Zeller

Commission Members Absent: Kelsey Brodt, Peter Butler, Elzaki Ishag

Staff Present: Olivia Dorow Hovland

1. Adopt Agenda & Approve Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Riley to adopt agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve minutes of the May 16, 2024 Sustainability Commission meeting, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Summer Project Recap

Ms. Dorow Hovland asked commissioners for their feedback on summer events.

Commissioner McClellan said that the Summer in the City event that she worked at was well-attended and that she gave out lots of free lightbulbs.

Commissioner Anderson was present for all three SITC events and all went well.

For the Sustainable Garden Tour, Commissioner McClellan helped vet the garden tour sites beforehand. Commissioner Anderson did the tour day-of. She said that most of the stops had an owner present on the day of the event. Some had additional amenities like tents and lemonade. Homeowners reported that between 30 and 40 residents did the tour.

Commissioners suggested extending the tour next year to three or four hours. Commissioner Riley suggested doing the tour over two days if homeowners are willing.

When asked about things that could be improved in the future, Commissioner McClellan encouraging applicants to submit photos from previous years. Commissioner Riley suggested having more promotion in the community newsletter or publishing a recap in the fall newsletter.

Ms. Dorow Hovland said that next year the Commission could consider tabling at a house on the tour.

Commissioner Riley suggested designating neighborhood captains if there are clusters of locations that want to be on the tour.

3. EV Stations Research and Promotion

Ms. Dorow Hovland presented the work plan item and asked commissioners how they wanted to proceed.

Commissioners mulled over the following questions:

- Is the report for residents or businesses?
- Should it cover planning and regulatory approvals?
- Can the city participate in the Charging Smart program?
- Can the commission recommend that the city consider EVs as fleet replacement vehicles?
- Can the report tie in grounds equipment like lawnmowers?
- Do we know how many people in the city own EVs? Is there a certain threshold that would help justify installing more EV infrastructure?

Commissioners drafted the following outline for a report and assigned roles:

- Justification
 - Current EV ownership in the City of Coon Rapids
 - Reduce carbon emissions
 - Air quality – general vehicle emissions (particulate)
 - Reduce gas money
 - Peer city survey
- Promotion of existing resources
 - Utility rebates
 - State/federal rebates
 - Current chargers around the city
- City actions
 - Regulatory best practices -
 - Explore fleet EVs
 - Charger install at PW/city garage
 - State contract
 - Charging Smart program participation
 - New business promotion/communication
 - Multifamily units – prewiring to code

4. Staff Updates

Ms. Dorow Hovland shared the following list of updates:

- The city received a water efficiency grant from the Metropolitan Council for another two-year period
- The city received the solar for public buildings grant from the state
- The city continues work on the grant-funded Active Transportation Plan
- Kate, the city's GreenCorps member, is staying for another year
 - The organics drop site at Sand Creek is going well. The drop site at Wintercrest ended. The Ice Center is being tested in the next week or two.
 - The city is hosting an EV show at the Farmer's Market in September.

5. Chair and Commissioner Comments

Commissioners have previously expressed interest in hosting an event for National Public Lands Day. Commissioner McClellan noted that Stillwater is collaborating with the master naturalists to offer an incentive for volunteer participants. Granite Falls is collaborating with National Parks and could be a future resource. Commissioner Backes suggested reaching out to the Coon Rapids Dam to collaborate on an event.

Commissioner Riley shared that there is a biochar project at Erlandson Park off of Egret. She is interested in publicizing the sustainability work of CCWD and the city. Commissioner Anderson noted that she is working on a project like this.

Motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Zeller to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. The motion passed unanimously.



Sustainability Commission - Regular

2.

Meeting Date: 09/19/2024

Subject: EV Stations Research and Promotion: Next Steps

From: Olivia Dorow Hovland, Sustainability Planner

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainability Commission's 2024 work plan includes an initiative on "EV Stations Research and Promotion."

DISCUSSION

In the work plan, the following items are called out:

- Promote existing EV stations across the city
- Research best practices for siting EV stations
- Create report for City Council on EV recommendations

At their August 15 meeting, the Commission drafted an outline for a report to City Council. Staff will present a draft report based on that outline and content generated by the Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission discuss next steps for this work plan item.

Attachments

Initiative #4 - EVs

Initiative #4 Initiative Type: ☒ Project ☐ Ongoing/Annual ☐ Event Council Charge: ☒ Study & Report (council requested) ☐ Review & Comment (council requested)			
Initiative Title EV Stations Research and Promotion	Deliverable • Promote existing EV stations across the city • Research best practices for siting EV stations • Create report for City Council on EV recommendations	Leads	Target Completion Date Q4 2024
Budget Required: NA			
Staff Support Required: Coordination with communications team for promotion of current EV stations, receive the best practices report			
Progress Q1:			
Progress Q2:			
Progress Q3:			
Progress Q4:			



Sustainability Commission - Regular

3.

Meeting Date: 09/19/2024

Subject: Staff Updates

From: Olivia Dorow Hovland, Sustainability Planner

INTRODUCTION

Staff will provide an update on sustainability-related work going on at the city.

DISCUSSION

NA

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the update.



Sustainability Commission - Regular

4.

Meeting Date: 09/19/2024

Subject: Chair and Commissioner Comments

From: Olivia Dorow Hovland, Sustainability Planner

INTRODUCTION

Commissioners are invited to share any new or relevant sustainability-related information with the group.

DISCUSSION

NA

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the comments.
