



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, May 25, 2021

5:00 – 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve April 27, 2021 Minutes
4. Tree Preservation Memo dated March 25, 2021
5. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
6. City Building Moratorium
7. Update on Business Energy Savings Campaign – Formal Launch August, 2021
8. Update on EV Event “Plug It In Wayzata”
9. Proposed Design Standards – June, 1 City Council Meeting
10. Update on Multi-Family Strategy – Formal Launch July, 2021
11. Go Green Club Update & Student Garden Collaboration
12. Native Plants / Pollinator Update
13. Update on GreenStep Cities
14. Provide Additional Updates on Energy Action Plan
15. Transition Student Member from Bajetti to Nothom
16. Solar Discussion
17. Next Meeting – May 25, 2021
18. Adjournment



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1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approve Agenda**
3. **Approve April 27, 2021 Minutes**
4. **Tree Preservation Memo dated March 25, 2021**

Chair Andersen has provided a memo that outlines some proposed changes and additions to the existing Tree Preservation Ordinance for the Committee to review.

5. **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**

The Committee can discuss different options to pursue for EV charging infrastructure.

6. **City Building Moratorium**

Councilmember Buchanan will discuss the past moratorium vote from the City Council.

7. **Update on Business Energy Savings Campaign – Formal Launch August, 2021**

The co-leaders for the Business Energy Savings Campaign will give an update on this work of the Energy Action Plan.

8. **Update on EV Event “Plug It In Wayzata”**

The co-leaders of the EV Event will give an update on the proceedings leading up to the event.

9. **Proposed Design Standards – June, 1 City Council Meeting**

The proposed Design Standards are scheduled to be on the June 1st City Council meeting. Committee members are encouraged to send in any public comments prior to the meeting regarding the proposed standards. The previous public comments that went to the Planning Commission will be attached to the packet that goes to the City Council.

10. **Update on Multi-Family Strategy – Formal Launch July, 2021**

The contact list has been created for this strategy and staff is currently working towards creating mailing lists to the apartment and condominium units so direct mailings are possible.

11. Go Green Club Update & Student Garden Collaboration

Committee member Bajetti can give an update on this item.

12. Native Plants / Pollinator Update

Committee members can give an update on this item.

13. Update on GreenStep Cities

The City Council held a workshop on May 3rd to discuss the potential of joining the GreenStep Cities program. The City Council had generally positive feedback on the program. The Committee can discuss the next steps for this program.

14. Provide Additional Updates on Energy Action Plan

The Committee members can provide any additional updates on the work of the Energy Action Plan.

15. Transition Student Member from Bajetti to Nothom

The Committee can discuss when the best time is to transition the student member role of the Committee.

16. Solar Discussion

Staff met with the solar company, Blue Horizon Energy LLC, to discuss different options/possibilities for future solar installations on City property. Staff will provide an update on this discussion. The staff at Blue Horizon Energy also suggested to give a presentation to the E&E Committee at one of their meetings to provide information and answer any questions.

17. Next Meeting – May 25, 2021

18. Adjournment

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

5:00 – 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Meeting was held via Zoom.

Committee attendees included: Polly Andersen, Kathy Jones, Amy Stielow, Chrissie Olson and Lauren Leith.

City Council representation: Jeffrey Buchanan

Wayzata City Staff Member: Nick Kieser

2. Approve Agenda

Vote passed unanimously.

3. Approve March 23, 2021 Minutes

Vote passed unanimously with no changes.

4. Tree Preservation Ordinance Review

Staff described the upcoming process for review and propose changes to the Tree Preservation Ordinance. The information that Chair Andersen provided regarding the tree preservation ordinance will be included in the May E&E agenda packet.

Discussed the need to make this process clear and simple and get the required expertise to make these changes. It was noted that feedback from the Boards and Commissions and the community will be very important.

The Committee could review other cities their existing tree ordinances, especially cities that are a part of the GreenStep Cities.

5. Update on Business Energy Savings Campaign

Councilmember Buchanan will start to do some outreach to businesses about potential energy saving options for their building in the near future. The main first step would be to have the property owners/tenants to perform an audit for their buildings. Materials are starting to be created for this work and will start this summer.

Some of the Committee members met with Xcel Energy, CEE, and the Wayzata Chamber of Commerce to discuss possible options on outreach to the business community.

Committee member Steiner also gave an update on the residential energy savings campaign. The co-leaders will start to create more materials and additional outreach opportunities for the residential community. Additional work will also be completed on the existing sustainability webpage.

The Committee discussed how to work in coordination with the Chamber on future projects.

6. Update on GreenStep Cities

The City Council workshop item will be on the May 4th City Council meeting. The workshop is planned to have Councilmember Buchanan introduce the item and have the GreenStep Cities staff member, Diana McKeown, describe the program in more detail.

7. Update on EV Event

Committee member Steiner provided more information on the proposed presentation and the presenters at the EV event.

The Committee discussed the potential for future EV charging stations in the City. The Committee is planning on doing more research into the topic of EV charging stations in the future to bring more of these opportunities to the City.

Materials are planned to be put into the City and Chamber media outlets to advertise the EV event this summer.

8. Update on Zoning Task Force

The Committee discussed that the Design Standards are planned to go to Council in May and June. The renewable energy item will be discussed later in 2021. The renewable energy item will address the permitting of such items and where to allow renewable energy in the city.

The Committee also discussed the following:

1. Public EV Chargers in all parking structures - this will be crucial to our business district and to residents living in multifamily apartments and condos. We should be promoting EV infrastructure, EVs help to reduce carbon and help to keep that air healthy.
2. Solar and other renewable energy technologies: Promote it. We should aim for maximum flexibility in installations, rather than restricting this wonderful technology. Because after all it's the future. And it is less expensive. And it will be seen as an icon of self-sufficiency. And it helps keep our energy dollars local.
3. Lighting that is friendly to pollinator habitat on all walkways and lot lighting. We already refer to promoting pollinators in landscaping and we should be consistent and carry that over to lighting. Lighting can severely damage pollinator friendly habitat.
4. Landscaping (trees, grasses, hedges, perennials and gardens): it should be native plants because that is sustainable and that is environmentally the right thing to do and is often less expensive to maintain

than non-sustainable plants. The committee recommends that the standards include a goal % for native plants, such as 80%.

9. Update on Multi-Family Strategy

The multi-family buildings and contact information has been created. Outreach and material creation will occur during this summer.

10. Go Green Club Update

The Committee will look for an update from the student members at a future E&E Committee meeting.

11. Hennepin County Climate Plan Update

The County Climate Plan is going forward and is scheduled to be adopted on May 4, 2021 by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. The E&E Committee is encouraged to review the Plan.

12. Pollinator Webinar Update

The Committee discussed the pollinator webinar and discussed possible opportunities to have something planned for Wayzata. Metro Blooms is an organization that works with Cities on this topic.

13. Provide Additional Updates on Energy Action Plan

No additional updates from the Committee.

14. Plug It In Information

It was noted that the EV event is termed Plug It In. The EV Event is still on schedule.

15. Workshops/Webinars

Committee member Jones stated that a subcommittee could be created to go and discuss potential webinars and workshops in the future.

16. Next Meeting – May 25, 2021

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

To: Emily Goellner and Nick Keiser – City of Wayzata
From: Polly Andersen
Re: Tree Ordinance Improvements
Date: 3/25/2021

Background: Broadly stated, the reason to revisit the tree ordinance is to direct the city to a more ecologically sustainable future. Residents want Wayzata to be at “the forefront of sustainability, with a healthy environment, enticing parks and public space”.

These ideas spring from a knowledge network of local tree experts such as foresters and biologists, as well as the non-experts such as residents and city elected officials. Many of these ideas are being looked at in nearby cities including Minnetonka.

- Strengthen the requirements for developers to protect trees during construction. Right now, landscapers doing final grading can use heavy equipment on tree root systems. This negates any previous benefit of protection.
- Update the significant and heritage tree list to ensure that developers are not credited with saving invasive species or trees with a high susceptibility to known diseases, for example, ash trees. The list should include a rating system of climate resiliency and ecosystem functionality (for example, how well does that tree species support wildlife or how well does it soak up water during and after large rain events).
- Promote resilient native trees specifically and advocate for 100% coverage of these when it comes to replacement. The linden/basswood example could mean builders can plant European linden (little ecological benefit) when the primary tree community in Wayzata is sugar maple/basswood deciduous forest. The native trees today may be different in 20 years and we need to look at that.
- Update the suitable tree list, many are not climate-resilient species—fir, spruce, hemlock (any of the evergreens), for example.
- Build out the concept of our Tree Preservation Zone to include a city-wide perspective. Right now, a homeowner would have no idea if part of their property is designated as a Tree Preservation Zone. A homeowner should be required to protect it if one is on their property, similar to a development-related requirement. Address a potential loophole: 25% of trees in such a zone can be cut. When a resident sells the property, the next homeowner cannot cut 25% of the trees preservation zone.
- Homeowners should not be allowed to clear cut their properties. Update the ordinance to reflect the significant and heritage tree rating system and define a set limit of trees removed from a property. There should be a balance between property rights (the right to remove trees) and the community benefits that trees provide, particularly the neighborhood benefit and connectivity of tree cover in neighborhoods.

- Fix the developer expansion loophole: A property that was developed in prior years and is later expanded upon should be considered in light of the history of trees that were removed earlier.
- Replace caliper and height (size) as the primary measurement of tree replacement in favor of species diversity and ecosystem functionality. Many of our native trees cannot grow large in container settings. Future significant trees such as oak and hickory should be allowed to be replanted as smaller options, because that is how they are most likely to be successful in the long term.
- The temporary transplanting of significant trees is not practical. Very few trees survive transplanting other than ones that are nursery grown.
- Have the staff evaluate development projects 8 years or older to assess outcomes (tree loss) from construction. It takes at least 5-7 years for a large oak tree to die from construction-related damage. If we aren't measuring outcomes, how do we know if the current tree ordinance is working? Should the developer be held responsible?
- Address dying and dead trees. Encourage protection of old trees that are dying to recognize they are part of the support that animals rely upon. For example, dead and dying trees provide habitat for owls and raptors which helps keep the squirrel population in check. Encourage cutting back such trees to achieve safety yet preserve them to be a wildlife resource.
- The tree ecosystem should be protected by building into the ordinance a reference to mulch and plants under the tree canopy to protect the conditions that insects, birds and other wildlife relies upon. Promote mulch or native plants.
- Ask the Park Board to adopt policies that support the tree ordinance so the policies can become a part of operations of public works department. For example, direct staff on how to treat trees that are dying or diseased and how and where to mulch or plant under the tree canopy.
- Refer to a % tree cover as a city-wide goal. This should include a breakdown of tree species, coverage by area/zone in the city, and where more tree cover is needed based upon known threats and possibilities for mitigation (development, tree disease, noise pollution from highways).