



AGENDA

Environmental Management Commission

November 18, 2019 – 7:00 PM
Hadley Room, Oakdale City Hall

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 21, 2019**
- 4. 2020 WORK PLAN**
- 5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & COMMISSIONER UPDATES**
- 6. NEXT MEETING DATE – JANUARY 13, 2020**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

**The next regular Environmental Management Commission meeting will be held
January 13, 2020 @ 7PM, Oakdale City Hall**

**REGULAR MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
October 21, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) of the City of Oakdale was held on Monday, October 21, 2019 at the Oakdale Municipal Building, 1584 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Miller at 7:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair: Keith Miller

Commissioners: Bonnie Wilson
Caitlin Bergh
Nick Kantola

Absent: Gretel Drainville
Noah Gerding

Also Present: Jen Hassebroek, Sr. Community Development Specialist

Quorum Present: YES NO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KANTOLA, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2019.

4 AYES.

COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN

Ms. Hassebroek provided a summary regarding the Community Solar Garden including the following:

- Oakdale has a subscription to a Community Solar Garden and is approaching the 1 year anniversary of receiving bill credits.
- Total subscription amount is to be 4.7 million kWh, subscribed amount is currently 3.8 million kWh. 380,000 kWh are in a garden coming online shortly, which leave approximately 500,000 kWh left to be placed.

Ms. Hassebroek stated the CSG subscription payment was \$369,000 in Year 1 but the City received bill credits of \$411,000. The profit on the subscription was \$42,000. If the City would not have subscribed to a CSG, it would have paid \$352,000 in that time for electricity. A spreadsheet of the breakdown was provided at meeting.

In response to Commissioner Wilson's questions on whether individual citizens may participate in a solar garden and could it be promoted to our businesses, Ms. Hassebroek responded that residents can participate. She noted that the OACC and social media have promoted community solar.

Commissioner Kantola stated that Xcel Energy has a small program but is limited and has a waiting list.

Ms. Hassebroek stated that most of the accounts with bill credits haven't paid money in to Xcel since April 2019. Bill credits generated by the garden will slow down with less daylight, but existing credits will still be used towards gas and electric bills. In February 2020, Xcel will issue a check for any remaining unused bill credits.

In response to Chairperson Miller's question if the subscription payment is based on a fixed rate, Ms. Hassebroek responded that it is, and is in the contract.

Commissioner Miller noted a private developer for Community Solar Garden in Washington County was in his neighborhood a few weeks ago selling subscriptions.

2020 WORK PLAN

Ms. Hassebroek stated the purpose of providing information tonight is to allow for time to review background information for next month. She spoke on the following:

- The 2040 Comprehensive Plan will guide much of the work plan
- EV study is going to City Council in November, items identified in that will require follow-up research from the EMC
- GreenStep Cities best practices as they relate to city-identified goals and policies

In response to Commissioner Wilson's question regarding the yellow box in the guide, Ms. Hassebroek responded it shows the minimum to be recognized as a GreenStep City with yellow being required steps. Oakdale has met all requirement steps.

Chairperson Miller stated that there are other resiliency goals in the plan such as the Bike/Pedestrian Plan. Ms. Hassebroek will provide the related goals and policies at the next meeting.

In response to Commissioner Wilson's question if the commission will need to decide which things will have the most impact, Ms. Hassebroek replied the conversation will be focused around implementing the Comp Plan goals and policies.

In response to Commissioner Wilson asking where she could learn more about stormwater, Ms. Hassebroek responded the city website has information. The commission could also ask the Public Works Director to come and present at a future meeting if there was a specific item the commission would like to learn more about.

Chairperson Miller suggested looking at other cities best practices and compare their stormwater management programs.

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Chairperson Miller noted it is important to continue to educate residents with things such as the Education Recycling Grant from Washington County.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Ms. Hassebroek reported that Commissioner Persoon has resigned due to moving out of Oakdale. She asked the Commissioners to think about serving as vice chair in the coming year.

Commissioner Wilson mentioned she was able to attend the CERTS meeting and asked if a public calendar of events is available.

Chairperson Miller did not attend but will get a summary of the meeting. He suggested joining the CERTS mailing list to receive all the upcoming events. He mentioned a group of commissions that meet annually. Ms. Hassebroek stated there is an email Listserve for the group and will forward the information.

Chairperson Miller attended a BikeMN Corporate Bike Forum at 3M. Attendees included BikeMN, MNDOT, Metro Transit, Bike and Pedestrian Planners from St. Paul and Washington County, Emily Shively and Linnea Graffunder-Bartels from Oakdale. The past and current 3M Bike Club Presidents will provide feedback on the bike and pedestrian plan update. In addition to the bike paths, they discussed the Gold Line and how trails are being built to get to the bus line. There are plans for an elevated, curb level trail along Johnson Parkway in St. Paul. It allows the pedestrian/bicyclist to be above road level and creates a speed bump at intersections for safety.

Chairperson Miller noted cities are getting together to discuss the potential for stretch building energy codes. The code would go beyond current state requirements and promote better energy efficiency in homes and buildings.

Commissioner Bergh announced she is resigning as she will be moving out of Oakdale. She thanked everyone for a great experience.

NEXT MEETING DATE

November 18, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE COMMISSIONER BERGH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILSON, TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 21, 2019 REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION AT 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Buhl

TO: Environmental Management Commission
FROM: Jennifer Hassebroek
DATE: November 8, 2019
SUBJ: 2020-2021 Work Plan Outline

In preparation for the EMC work in the next two years, a work plan needs to be prepared to guide and focus the commission’s work.

The following actions are based of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the GreenStep Cities program. A bulk of the activity will be focused on implementing the best practices identified in the Electric Vehicle study, as that was a major policy identified as a priority for the City Council last year. There are also ongoing items such as education and promotion, or the Washington County Recycling Grant, that are typically included in the commission’s yearly work.

Once the commission discusses and finalizes the work plan, it can be presented to the City Council at the joint meeting in February for approval.

EV Study Priorities - Goal 1: Policy 6	
Action	Description
Ride and Drive Event	Sponsor, coordinate, or promote a local ride and drive where residents may test drive and speak with actual EV owners about their experience.
Zoning/Subdivision Code Amendment	Allow EV charging station as an accessory use in all zoning districts.
Zoning/Subdivision Code Amendment	Establish design standards for public, commercial, and multi-family EV charging.
City Code Amendment	Define requirements for parking in an EV charging station and penalty for violation.
Zoning/Subdivision Code Amendment	Ensure minimum number of accessible EV charging stations in new development.
Zoning/Subdivision Code Amendment	Identify appropriate incentive and/or requirements for EV charging infrastructure in new multi-family or commercial bldgs.

Building Permit Process	Ensure process for permit meets best practices for form, rate, and education.
EV Bulk Buy	Partner with Drive Electric MN to promote their bulk buy programs for EV's
City Financing for EV Charging Stations	Add EV charging infrastructure and equipment as eligible expenses under the BRLF and HIA loan programs.
Other Comp Plan Priorities	
Goal 1: Policy 1 - Promote reinvestment in res/com properties through energy efficiency, tech assistance, financing.	Xcel Energy Rebate Programs, PACE,
Goal 1: Policy 2 - Connect low income residents to weatherization and EE resources.	CUB Bill Clinic Host Site
Goal 1: Policy 4 - Zoning regulations for solar in neighborhoods.	Update zoning code for solar as accessory use
Goal 1: Policy 5 - Promote residential/commercial renewable energy.	Solar Twin Cities Host Site
Goal 1: Policy 7 - Reduce waste generation, increase recycling.	Washington County Recycling Grant
GreenStep Cities BP Priorities	
BP 11.5 Create street network that improves quality of life, public health.	Bike and ped plan update to identify complete street gaps in road network.
BP 12.3 - Increase active transportation and alternatives to car travel.	Bike and ped plan update: identify mobility options on city web