

**REGULAR MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
February 11, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) of the City of Oakdale was held on Monday, February 11, 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:

Present: Keith Miller
Nick Kantola
Caitlin Bergh
Noah Gerding
Bonnie Wilson
James Persoon

Absent: Gretel Drainville

Also Present: Susan Olson, City Council Liaison
Jen Hassebroek, Sr. Community Development Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER KANTOLA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GERDING, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING OF THE JANUARY 14, 2019 MINUTES, SUBJECT TO GRAMMATICAL CORRECTIONS (CORRECT MISSPELLING OF CHAIR MILLER'S NAME UNDER ELECTION SECTION, ADD WORD 'MEETING' AT END OF MOTION FOR VICE CHAIR) AND ADDING COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AS FOLLOWS ON SUMMARY OF 2019 PROJECTS:

- **COMMISSIONER KANTOLA NOTED THAT SINGLE HAULER WASTE COLLECTION STUDY WAS NOT ON THE LIST FOR 2019 PROJECTS.**
- **CHAIR MILLER SUPPORTED A DISCUSSION WITH THE CITY COUNCIL OF SINGLE HAULER WASTE COLLECTION OPTIONS DUE TO DEGRADATION OF ROADS AND SAFETY. CHAIR MILLER NOTED TIMING OF THIS DISCUSSION WOULD BE IMPORTANT, AS WAS THE NEED FOR SUPPORT FROM THE CITY COUNCIL.**
- **CHAIR MILLER ALSO NOTED IMPORTANCE OF UPDATING GENERATION GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM AND CREATIVE RE-USE OF STORMWATER.**
- **COMMISSIONER DRAINVILLE ASKED ABOUT WHETHER THE EV STUDY WOULD COVER WHAT TO DO WITH THE BATTERY FOR DISPOSAL OR IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.**
- **CHAIR MILLER NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING TO GETTING GRANT FUNDING TO HELP WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS, AS WELL AS WORKING WITH COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES.**

6 AYES.

OPEN FORM

None

MINNESOTA SOLAR SUITABILITY ANALYSIS APP (MSSA)

Ms. Hassebroek stated the MSSA app is a project from the University of Minnesota to help Minnesotans visualize and monetize the solar potential of their homes and businesses. She noted it uses Lidar data and GIS technology to calculate the estimated size of the system and payback needed to meet a variable set of parameters.

Ms. Hassebroek walked through the MSSA app with the commissioners by reviewing some of their homes for solar potential.

The commission discussed the industrial park areas off Highway 694 and 10th Street as viable sites for solar. Ms. Hassebroek discussed ways to market solar opportunities to the properties.

In response to Commissioner Bergh's question on whether new home builders could include solar in their construction price, Ms. Hassebroek said that is certainly an option to add that infrastructure as they are building to be solar ready (including electrical service for electric vehicles).

In response to Commissioner Kantola's question concerning details getting out to the public, Ms. Hassebroek indicated that the city website and social media could be utilized.

Ms. Hassebroek asked for commission feedback on the effectiveness of direct mailers as they have a cost associated with them.

Commissioner Wilson asked whether the Oakdale Update is used, Ms. Hassebroek said it has been and will continue to be.

Commissioner Bergh feels direct mailers always seem like junk mail not to be taken seriously but enjoys information from social media or a referral from someone she knows.

Chairperson Miller commented on continuing to use social media and the Oakdale Review (to do a story on a resident who currently has solar) and to target commercial properties.

In response to Commissioner Wilson's question on having a table at Summerfest, Ms. Hassebroek said she would check into the possibility.

COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN (CSG) UPDATE

Ms. Hassebroek gave a detailed summary of the September through December 2018 data from the CSG that is currently in operation, include the billing, bill credit and profit.

She said the majority of the City's community solar garden subscription has come online since September.

In response to Commissioner Bergh's question on extra fees, Ms. Hassebroek said there is a set fee amount laid out in the contract for the next 25 years.

Ms. Hassebroek noted using the results from the CSG to promote subscriptions.

Commissioner Wilson suggested “rolling” sign in City Hall with CSG data would be an effective promotional tool.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Ms. Hassebroek mentioned the Star Tribune article included in the packet titled, “U scientists: Minnesota is one of the nation’s fastest- warming states” as an interesting read.

Chairperson Miller brought up the MPR news that within a couple of years, Europe will be banning single use plastic, including cups, plates and straws and disposable packaging, because of it going into the ocean. He noted they had ten tips to reduce your plastic footprint (plastic that is not recyclable) that we could add to our own city website and the Oakdale Update.

Ms. Hassebroek said she will look at the Washington County recycling grant funds to use for plastic and other recycling information.

In response to Commissioner Wilson’s question on the joint workshop meeting being held on February 12, Ms. Hassebroek said it is an informal short meeting with the Council and commission to get reacquainted and discuss what is upcoming for 2019.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chairperson Miller said the next EMC meeting is March 18, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GERDING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERSOON, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 11, 2019 REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AT 8:12 P.M.

6 AYES.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Hannigan