

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

*Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13.D.021, Public Works, Environment
and Transportation Commission members, City Staff, and members of the
public participated in this meeting electronically due to the
COVID-19 pandemic.*

1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Wozniak called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his request, Public Works Director Marc Culver called the roll.

Present: Chair Joe Wozniak; Vice Chair Karen Huiett; and Members Jarrod Cicha, Stephanie Hammer, Nancy Misra, Shane Spencer, and Youth Commissioner Jana Lynch

Absent: Member (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Marc Culver; City Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; and Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approval of August 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

Member Joyce noted on line one, introduction Chair Cihacek was listed rather than Chair Wozniak.

Member Hammer arrived at 6:36 p.m.

Motion

Member Spencer moved, Member Hammer seconded, approval of the August 25, 2020 meeting minutes as amended.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

City Engineer Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated September 22, 2020.

Chair Wozniak asked if the conversion of the Rosedale ring road was a sign that the other work on Rosedale to demolish Herberger's and construct a hotel and a restaurant market, hotels, etc. is all moving forward or is it separate from that.

Mr. Freihammer thought it separate and was a long-term vision. He indicated he has not heard anything recently regarding that.

Chair Wozniak asked how this will alter the East entrance into Rosedale at Snelling because right now it is not a full two-way. He asked if this would change and will the City be involved.

Mr. Freihammer indicated every intersection will get modified and the East entrance will get modified the least because currently on Snelling a person can go both ways.

Public Works Director Marc Culver explained not all of the entrances will allow the one direction to turn left and might be the case with the East entrance. He indicated it is an interesting configuration.

Member Misra indicated she was curious about the development on Fairview by Rosedale. She noted the outlots were mentioned in the update.

Mr. Culver reviewed the retail development with the Commission and some of the restaurants/retail that will be going in.

Mr. Freihammer continued with the update.

Chair Wozniak explained the Commission received an email last week about the Roseville Business Council meeting which is on September 23, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will have discussion about transit.

Mr. Culver updated the Commission on the meeting agenda.

Chair Wozniak wondered if any Commission Members were able to attend that meeting because he was not able to make the meeting. He noted it would be a virtual meeting. He encouraged any members that are able to attend the meeting at that time to do so and to report back to the Commission.

Member Joyce indicated he can go to the meeting.

Chair Wozniak indicated he received via email a question about water reclamation for sidewalk washing at Walmart. He believed staff was copied on the email and assumed the email was answered.

Mr. Culver thought people get confused about emailing the Public Works Department and the Commission. He indicated staff did respond to this email.

Mr. Freihammer reviewed staff's response to the email.

Chair Wozniak asked if anything came up at last night's City Council meeting regarding the Civic Campus Master Plan.

Mr. Culver indicated there was a nice conversation about it. He noted there will be a detailed presentation of the Campus Master Plan in October. He reviewed the City Council discussion with the Commission.

Chair Wozniak wondered if the sustainability update was included as a point of information or would Commissioners like to talk about this or have questions about it. He explained there was something in the report about City compost collection and looking at collecting paper products in addition to food scraps and it seems that from a County standpoint it is kind of moving away from paper products and other compostable because of a concern about stuff the County does not want in the compost and confusion on the part of consumers who may not know the difference between compostable items. There was also something in the report about the Green Corp. Member starting.

Mr. Culver explained the Green Corp. Member started on September 21st and is set up to work from home. This will be a dedicated resource for the City for the next eleven plus months. He has already started on the benchmarking program with the businesses.

Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson reviewed the responsibilities of the Green Corp. Member with the Commission.

5. Partners in Energy Update

Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson indicated in late July the City was informed that its application to participate in Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy (PiE) Program was approved.

Mr. Culver reviewed the PiE presentation program with the Commission and shared a very preliminary schedule.

Vice Chair Huiett asked for clarification even if a person is not on the team she would imagine that there would be some kind of public engagement and commentary as well as participation and not just the team participation.

Mr. Culver indicated that was correct. He noted there will be touch points for the Commission and City Council regarding the development of the first draft plan.

Member Misra applauded the discussion about making sure this is a diverse group on the team and wondered if staff has thought through on how to accomplish that. She thought in Xcel's presentation to the Commission there was the presentation from St. Louis Park which talked about having a pretty robust youth involvement and she thought that was a real asset for a project like this. If there are ways to actively work on engaging high school or college young adults, that would be fantastic.

Chair Wozniak indicated the Climate Action Plan that the St. Louis Park ultimately approved began with a group at the high school.

Mr. Culver explained that was a very good point and staff will make sure there is at least one identified youth member on that energy action team.

Member Joyce thought maybe colleges and youth and people studying that for a field might be good choices for the action team. He wondered if there was someone from the Commission that could be a part of that team.

Mr. Culver indicated staff would like to have one liaison from the Commission on the Energy Action Team. He asked if there would be any potential volunteers.

Member Misra indicated she would be interested in being the Commission liaison.

Chair Wozniak thought there might be room for other members to somehow be more involved than at the Commission level and moving forward this could be figured out. He thought members of the business community might also be interested along with students and maybe some other interested groups as well as church groups that have had solar installations, for example.

Member Spencer explained some of the things the City has tried to do have not reached some of the different groups. He thought to find a more diverse group the City should lean on the Chamber, Churches, and civic leaders because those people will know better and could identify someone that might be interested and wanting to be more engaged in the community.

Member Hammer indicated she was thinking about some of the groups that have come to the Commission meetings in the past, Resilient Roseville and Do Good Roseville and some organizations that already have high engagement with folks that are interested in things like this. She wondered if the City had relationships with those folks and knew who they were to engage them to see if some members would be interested.

Chair Wozniak explained Resilient Roseville would certainly be interested.

Mr. Culver indicated staff does have good ties with organizations in the City. The key will be to reach out to them for good candidates.

Member Misra thought the City should also be looking at socio-economic diversity as well. She suggested checking with other Commission Members to see if there are any other connections that could be looked at.

Chair Wozniak opened up the floor for public comment with no one wishing to speak.

Chair Wozniak asked what the timeline might look like.

Mr. Culver indicated staff really wants to be deliberate in trying to recruit members to the team to attain that diversity. He indicated there will be some sort of blasting and media blast. He hoped within the next five to six weeks there will be a team and a timeline.

6. Recycling RFP Discussion

Environmental Specialist Johnson explained the City entered into a five-year comprehensive recycling agreement with Eureka Recycling starting on January 1, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2021. He reviewed the Recycling RFP with the Commission.

Vice Chair Huiett thought the question of who owns the cart seems a little ridiculous and wondered if someone could explain why this is important and why can't the City buy the cart from the current contractor so there is not really a swap and what happens to the carts. She did not think this seemed like a high-level priority but when looking at the dollars it starts to make sense

Chair Wozniak also flagged the cart issue as a discussion point because he thought in the previous contract or maybe in the current contract with Eureka the City had the option of buying the carts the City had for \$175,000 and he believed those carts were new five years ago.

Mr. Culver noted the carts were new from a previous contract and were three years old at the time and are going on seven years old.

Chair Wozniak noted carts usually last ten years and are probably nearing the end of their useful life. He indicated the City needs to ask what Eureka's price is for selling the carts to the City now. He also wondered if Ramsey County would be willing to pay the City for half the price of a used cart.

Mr. Culver explained from the City's perspective the whole conversation of cart ownership is the recycling fund has a near zero balance as far as Capital purchase of the carts and would have to borrow the capital or something whether it is \$330,000 or some pro-rated price of the carts out there now. That will be the first hurdle. The second part is the handling, the ownership, the risk of the cart ownership then falls on the City. The City previously had a lower price from Eureka to go with the contractor owned carts versus the City owned carts at that point. The advantage of going with City owned carts at that point would have been the carts would have already been on the street and the City would not have to worry about extending Eureka's contract in order to work out a swap, etc. The City would still have some risks with cart ownership such as where would the carts be warehoused. The City would also have to build capital to replace the carts at some point. That is the disadvantage side of the City owning the carts.

Member Spencer would like to see what the total cost of ownership would be for the City for the carts and what it would cost annually to maintain the carts.

Member Misra agreed that the total cost is important to look at. She thought that the recycling carts look a lot better as she travels through the City than the garbage carts. The whole purpose of the recycling is waste reduction and wanted to make sure the City was not creating more waste by getting rid of the carts in order to replace them. She wanted to make sure that the carts would be reused by Eureka if taken back otherwise the City is defeating the whole purpose.

Member Misra asked if the Eureka was able to track where the recyclable materials go and if the Commission could find that out.

Mr. Johnson indicated staff would check with Eureka and bring it back to the Commission.

Member Spencer asked if during the RFP process was staff going to ask what the costs would look like with and without a revenue share.

Mr. Culver explained there have been some conversations regarding both and have been told that Eureka would not be real excited to give the City a non-cost share number because the market is so volatile and Eureka does not know what to set as a fixed price and it could change as the market changes.

Chair Wozniak noted there are some industry trends that the Commission and City will need to keep an eye on and maybe learn more about. One being glass which is a big cost item for the City and in some cities around the country some recyclers

have stopped collecting glass because of the cost and it contaminates paper and other recyclables. The resident survey that the City conducted this year had a number of recycling questions including the level of service that he thought would play into the RFP. There are other communities that have recently or are in the process of renewing or signing new contracts with recyclers and he thought the Commission should look at some of those for some features, some cost issues, etc.

Mr. Johnson continued his RFP Presentation with the Commission.

Youth Member Lynch left the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Vice Chair Huiett indicated for any vendor RFP for service she thought there is always an opportunity to have equity inclusion be a part of the selection criteria and she was not seeing that as far as any of the engagement efforts or hiring practices. She thought there was a little bit of a contradiction in the RFP where the criteria is not ranked or rated. She indicated there is ranking and it appears that cost is the most important of the forty percent consideration. This is important for them to be intentional about what the City values in the ranking and weighing. She assumed that the mandatory meetings and the submittal itself, there is probably more of a virtual component now for the receiving of submittals and was not sure why there needed to be an in person, mandatory meeting and seems to be an unnecessary risk. It was not clear to her whether this is a request for bid or a request for proposal. It seems like the two are used interchangeably and what she understands is the two are not interchangeable.

Chair Wozniak thought the equity inclusion and the ranking and weighing certain components of the bid should be a part of the RFP and he believed City staff will take note of those. He agreed that meeting in person seemed to be a no brainer.

Mr. Culver thought a lot of the comments from Vice Chair Huiett could be clarified by staff and there could be a good discussion about it when the next RFP is reviewed. Clearly equity and inclusion is much more important and a value for the City of Roseville. It always should have been but is clearly a high priority for the City now. As far as proposal versus bid, from a public agency perspective, a proposal generally is something that would be scored. It is going to include not only the price but will also include a lot of factors and variables that will allow staff to score value with that price and the overall proposal and service that is being provided. A bid is generally a hard number and given State Law the City has to take the lowest bid. When it is a proposal and staff can actually score the value of it then the City has a process of how to score and based on the score the contractor can be chosen based on the value of the contractor.

7. Items for Next Meeting – October 27, 2020

Discussion ensued regarding the October PWETC agenda:

- Proposed 2021 Utility Rates
- Civic Campus Master Plan Update

- City of Roseville's Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Program

8. Adjourn

Motion

Member Huiett moved, Member Misra seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:37 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.