

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Kris Fredson; Phillip Sterner; Susan Vento; Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Phillip Sterner, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Phillip Sterner to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2020-18 JT and 2020-19 JT)

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Phillip Sterner to approve the consent agenda business item. Motion carried.

1. 2019-18 JT: City of Eagan 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22062-1
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Eagan's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

2. 2019-19 JT: City of Mayer 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22091-1
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Mayer's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

2. 2020-68 SW: High Strength Waste Hauling Services
It was moved by Kris Fredson, seconded by Susan Vento that the Metropolitan Council authorize execution of contract 19P371 with Schlomka's Vac Truck Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 for a period of five (5) years for hauling high strength waste from Kemps LLC, located in Farmington, MN to the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant for digestion. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update:

Guthrie Byard, Equal Opportunity Consultant in Regional Administration and Dan Fick, Principal Engineer, Technical Services in the Environmental Services division shared a summary of the results of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) self-evaluation for Environmental Services (ES) facilities and how barriers identified in the self-evaluation will be addressed in the future. The ADA self-evaluation is a required review of program, services, and facilities for all state and local government with greater than 50 employees. The law also requires a written Transition Plan detailing the work needed to fix the issues identified during the self-evaluation.

Although ES facilities are not generally open to the public, ES hosts tours and meetings that bring members of the public to our facilities. Therefore, the self-evaluation included the tour routes and administration buildings at all nine ES treatment plants and the ES's two office sites: RMF and Metro 94. The majority of the barriers identified were relatively minor. Examples of common items identified included restroom equipment such as paper towel dispensers being mounted too high, restroom stall door handles being the wrong shape, stairways along the tour routes, and handicapped parking stall signing and pavement striping.

ES strategies to address ADA items identified in the self-evaluation:

1. Modify tour routes and make improvements to tour routes stops as needed.
2. Issue work orders to relocate or replace non-compliant hardware and equipment.
3. Contract for repairs that cannot be self-performed.
4. Include ADA improvements in capital projects.
5. Utilize general funds when available to make improvements that cannot be made using the previous strategies.

Comments & Questions:

Committee Member Fredson asked if there were any concerns discovered within parks or amenities that were just installed. Staff stated we are not aware of any situations that were affected by this. Staff further stated the ADA requirements are stipulated in the building code and are inspected by the City. If a construction project disrupts a feature, we would address the replacement at the time. Committee Member Fredson appreciates the addition of a position to address this topic within the Council.

Committee Member Vento agreed with Committee Member Fredson's appreciation of the work being done. She shared that she spent time rehabilitating from an injury 6 years ago and learned about mobility challenges and quality of life. Council Members Lee, Zeran, and Vento participated in discussions regarding neurological challenges some neighbors face as well as mobility issues. As our community becomes more mobile, we are strengthened because of the ADA requirements. We should consider celebrating the 30th anniversary of the program.

Chair Lindstrom commented about an article he read recently regarding transition plans. He stated it seems plans are evolving continuously. He praised the efforts for addressing existing barriers.

Committee Member Sterner asked who administers titles 1-5 programs. Staff stated the work is housed in the Office of Equal Opportunity.

2. General Manager Report

General Manager Thompson attended the NACWA conference in Atlanta, GA. She stated there was a discussion regarding PFAS. Much work needs to be done on the topic. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has resources assigned to address the issue. Committee members

shared insights and observations as they reflected on the previous meeting presentation on the topic.

If Committee members have items they would like brought before this committee, please let leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us know.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary