

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met in City Council Chambers on Thursday, February 24, 2022. Chair Trenzeluk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Ted Trenzeluk, Commissioners; Sarah Brass, Katherine Teiken, Brian Barner, Matt Mills, Todd Kruse

Absent: Commissioner Larry Moehring, Nichole Boehmke (excused); Pat Todd

3. Presentations

A. Community Development Environmental Initiatives Update, October - December 2021

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the Community Development Environmental Initiatives updates from October - December 2021. Powerpoint slides were presented as follows:

Environmental Initiatives Update (October - December 2021, Community Development)

- Community Solid Waste Abatement Programming
- Energy Action Plan / Xcel Energy Partners In Energy

Community Solid Waste Abatement Programming

- State and County solid waste management priorities
 - 75% of waste recycled by 2030

Commission Teiken ask if waste is measure by weight or volume. Mrs. Sutherland responded in the affirmative. Commissioner Barner asked what Dakota County's recycling rate is at and Mrs. Sutherland stated it is around 52%.

- Dakota County Community Waste Abatement Grant Program
- 2021 Workplan
 - Grant Admin
 - Residential Communications
 - Best Practices in City Facilities
 - Special Collections
 - Multifamily Recycling
 - City Facilities & Reuse
 - Event Recycling
 - In-Person Education
 - Gap Funding

Community Solid Waste Abatement Programming, Collection Events

- Compost Your Pumpkin - Nov 6 & 7
 - 2020: ~7,250 lbs
 - 2021: ~8,700 lbs
- Winter Clothing Swap Events - Reuse Opportunity

- 2021, ~200 lbs

Multifamily Programming

- 18 multifamily properties contacted via rental license renewal letters

2022 Workplan

- \$52,942.16 available for reimbursement
- Educate residents on waste abatement topics
 - Earth Day - Decluttering and Reuse
 - E-News
 - Insights, Social Media
- Connect multifamily properties to recycling resources
- Host special collection events
 - Spring Confidential Paper Shredding
 - Clean Up Day & Confidential Paper Shredding
 - Pumpkin Collection
 - Swap Event

Commissioner Mills asked if there are plans to educate single family households on how to properly recycle as well. Mrs. Sutherland stated the County has required articles for the city to share annually in printed communications. The City shares the required articles in the residential Insights newsletter which is sent to all 15,000 Inver Grove Heights households. One of the articles includes a list of which items can and cannot be recycled. Haulers are now required by the County to share this same list with their customers. This is also on the city website.

Energy Action Plan & Xcel Energy Partners In Energy

- March 2021: City Council Adopt Energy Action Plan
 - Goals for residents, businesses, institutions and city
 - Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- April 2021: Implementation with Partners In Energy facilitators.

Commissioner Barner asked what the City's partnership with Xcel Energy and if it costs the city money to be part of Partners in Energy. Mrs. Sutherland responded that Xcel Energy pays the cost of Center for Energy consultants that implement Partners in Energy. The city is currently in a two-year partnership that is free to the city, which also includes a \$2,000 budget for professionally printed marketing materials.

IGH Environmental E-News

- Worked with Partners In Energy facilitators to create a monthly E-News
- FREE Specialty LED Lightbulb Kit with Sign Up
- Created in Fall 2021 and launched publicly Jan 1, 2021
- 196 subscribers to date

Rental Property Outreach

- 80 mailers included in rental license renewal letters

Ongoing workplan items

- E-News
- Partnering with Inver Hills Community College

- Connect with community groups (chamber, seniors group, etc.)
- Create additional flyers (new construction, EV vehicle and charging, etc.)
- Different events in 2022

Commissioner Kruse asked about the city fleet size, replacement plan and if there is an existing plan to purchase electric vehicles. Mrs. Sutherland responded she is unsure of the current size of the city fleet but can get back to the Commission with that information. She said there is currently no existing plan to purchase electric vehicles, but the purchasing process for electric vehicles would depend on what vehicles are up for replacement, if they travel enough difference to make the finance case to purchase an electric vehicle, if the existing city replacement plan budget would allow for the purchase and installation of fleet charging equipment.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, October 28, 2022, Environmental Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Teiken, seconded by Commissioner Mills to approve the minutes from Thursday, October 28, 2021 as submitted.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Chair Trenzeluk asked what the status is for the Pine Bend Landfill's Certificate of Need. Mrs. Sutherland stated Pine Bend Landfill received their Certificate of Need in late October 2021 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. SKB Environmental Inc. has received approval from their preliminary Certificate of Need and will not receive a final until and if all final approvals are received.

5. Regular Agenda

A. IGH Environmental E-News

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the new IGH Environmental E-News. The e-news is intended to reach a targeted audience to share local environmental news, events, and tips on waste reduction, recycling, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water quality and conservation, natural resources conservation and more. She stated there are currently 196 subscribers that the city is continue to grow the subscriber base. She noted residents can sign up at www.ighmn.gov/notifyme, Select "IGH Environmental E-News" and Select email and/or text notifications. Staff shared examples topics the city plan to share information about with residents:

- Holiday lights recycling
- Smart salting
- Energy efficiency in cold weather
- Earth Day content and events
- Spring cleaning tips and how to properly dispose, repurpose, and reduce your waste
- Spring Paper Shredding event information
- Backyard composting tips
- Energy efficiency in hot weather

- Yard waste disposal tips
- Clean-Up Day event information
- Pumpkin collection event information
- America Recycles Day content

Mrs. Sutherland requested the Commission have an informal discussion of additional topics they would like to see shared in the email e-news with residents. The Commission suggested sharing information on the following additional topics:

- E-waste recycling
- Promote local disposal sites
- Request local businesses share environmental related content
- Landfill updates and tours
- Invasive species education
- Rain gardens
- Pollinator gardens
- State and county education and grant programs for residents
- Airport noise information and how to report a complaint
- Tick prevention
- Bee boxes
- Adopt a Park and Clean-Up Programs
- Partnerships with neighboring cities

The Commission also suggested staff consider promoting the Environmental E-news at city events, signs at city facilities and parks, and give out low-waste prizes for signs ups, for example free park rentals or native seed packets.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Brass to adjourn at 8:17 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.