

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, November 17, 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, November 17, 2022. Chair Boehmke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Nichole Boehmke, Commissioners; Sarah Brass, Sara Goodman, Nick Ruiz, Ted Trenzeluk, Larry Moehring

Absent: Kevin Sethre, Todd Kruse, Brian Barner

3. Presentations

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, October 27, 2022, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Moehring to approve the minutes from Thursday, October 27, 2022 as submitted.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

A. 2023 Environmental Advisory Commission Work Plan Discussion

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the staff report as included in the meeting packet. Mrs. Sutherland requested the Commission provide feedback on the draft 2023 EAC Work Plan included in the packet, assign a EAC representative for each item and consider a recommendation for City Council approval of the work plan with feedback included. Mrs. Sutherland noted a 2023 work plan actions column was added to provide clear and attainable actions to complete within the next year for each goal. Xcel Energy Partners In Energy MOU extension was also added to the work plan as the Commission is currently working on this.

Chair Boehmke asked if the EAC representative for the Partners In Energy MOU goal would also help with other related energy goals. Mrs. Sutherland responded, no that each goal is separate and the EAC representative's role would be only those listed in the work plan actions for that goal. In the case of the MOU, it would likely only be related to joining a future City Council discussion on the item, if requested by staff.

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked if the list of other environmental initiatives will be added to the workplan, such as No Mow May. Mrs. Sutherland responded that at the June 2023 EAC meeting, the Commission selected three priority goals for 2023. These priority goals were SolSmart, Organics Drop Off, and Business and Residential Recognition Program. Pollinator friendly lawns could be promoted as a criteria of the Business and Residential Recognition Program, if the Commission chooses.

Commissioners requested to be added as representatives for the following work plan goals:

- Xcel Energy Partners In Energy MOU: Chair Boehmke
- Business and Residential Recognition Program: Commissioners Brass and Goodman
- SolSmart: Commissioner Ruiz
- Organics Drop Off: Commissioner Goodman and Ruiz
- Electric Vehicle Readiness: Commissioner Moehring

Chair Boehmke asked if the City Council members will be representatives for any of the goals as well. Mrs. Sutherland noted City Council will not review the plan until the February 6, 2023 City Council Work Session. The City will receive City Council feedback at that time. Mrs. Sutherland noted that a resident at the October 2022 EAC meeting share during public comment that they would like to support the electric vehicle work plan goal. It's possible that a community working group could be created for specific work plan goals, if the City chooses to pursue that option.

Chair Boehmke asked what the State is doing related to public electric vehicle charging. Mrs. Sutherland noted the state has received federal grant dollars related to a VW settlement to remediate air quality emissions. The state has designated a portion of these dollars towards public electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The state is currently going through a public process to select where to build level 3 charging stations along I-35 and I-94. Other highways will be considered in a second grant funding round.

Chair Boehmke asked if absent Commissioners requested to sign up for a work plan goal. Mrs. Sutherland noted that Commissioner Barner signed up for Electric Vehicle Readiness during the last EAC meeting. The other Commissioners can be added to the plan if the Commission wishes to amend the plan.

Commissioner Ruiz asked if the EAC representatives would meet outside Commission meetings to discuss the goals. Mrs. Sutherland none of the action items listed require commissioners to meet outside of regularly scheduled meetings.

Commissioner Brass noted the workplan is helpful and gives the Commission clear direction.

Commissioner Goodman asked if the EAC representatives should research the goals outside of the city staff research provided. Mrs. Sutherland described the recognition program offers an example of where commissioners can discuss and select program parameters. If a commissioner wishes to read more on a topic than what is included in the staff report they are welcome to, but it is not required. The expectation of the Commission will be explained in the agenda packet when the item is on an upcoming agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Moehring, seconded by Commissioner Ruiz to recommend City Council approval of the draft 2023 EAC Work Plan with the EAC representatives added as discussed.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Mrs. Sutherland noted the next EAC meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday of December, December 15, 2022, due to the holiday.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Brass, seconded by Commissioner Moehring to adjourn at 7:38 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.