

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, July 27, 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, July 27, 2023. Chair Boehmke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Nichole Boehmke, Commissioners Sara Goodman, Nick Ruiz, Ted Trenzeluk, George Fell, Marjorie Savage, Kevin Sethre, Patti Mikulski.

Absent: Brian Barner (excused)

3. Presentations

A. New Commissioner Introductions and Oath of Office

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, May 18, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Sethre to approve the minutes from Thursday, May 18, 2023 as submitted.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. Minutes of Thursday, June 22, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Sethre, seconded by Commissioner Savage to approve the minutes from Thursday, June 22, 2023 as submitted.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

A. Commissioner Appointments for Chair & Vice Chair

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Fell to appoint Commissioner Goodman as Chair.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Fell, seconded by Commissioner Trenzeluk to appoint Commissioner Ruiz as Vice Chair.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the following PowerPoint slides on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to the Commission:

EECBG

- Reviewed EECBG Grant Program

EECBG

- IGH: Non-Competitive Grant of \$76,160.
- No match required
- Apply by Jan 2024
- Spend funds within 2 years

Eligible Project Categories

- Variety of eligible activities
- Reviewed internally to discuss project ideas
- Staff created 3 project ideas for the city to choose from which fall into the 2 red categories

Project Options

- Lighting Upgrade (planned project)
- Electric Vehicle for City Fleet
- Electric Vehicle Charger at VMCC

Lighting Update - Questions

- 1) Dark Sky Complaint? All lighting is indoor lighting.
- 2) Project Outcomes for the LED upgrade?
 - Energy cost savings: \$6,830/year
 - Energy kWh savings: 68,300 kWh/year
 - GHG savings: 48.4 mt/CO2
 - Equivalent to
 - 9.4 homes' electricity for one year
 - 10.8 gas powered vehicles driven for one year

Fleet EV - Questions

- 3) EV vehicle range in cold weather?
 - Conventional Gas
 - City driving: 10-20%
 - Short trips: 15-33%

- Hybrid
 - City driving: 20-40%
 - Short trips: 25-45%
- Electric Vehicle
 - Mixed city & hwy driving: 41% (range at 20°F)
 - Mixed city & hwy driving: 17% (range at 95°F)
- AAA study

EV Market Review

City Fleet Utilization

- Daily mileage:
 - Police (leased): 80-100 miles/day
 - Building Inspections & Fire : 20-55 miles/day

Public EV Charger - Questions

- 4) Different charger levels:
 - Level 1
 - 120v, 2-5 miles/hour (<50 miles/day)
 - Homes, workplace
 - Level 2
 - 240v, 10-50 miles/hour (>50 miles/day)
 - Most common public charger
 - Households, workplaces
 - Level 3, Direct Circuit Fast Charger "DCFC"
 - Varying charging speeds, roughly full charge in 30 mins
 - Infrastructure is significantly more expensive
 - Along highways for long distance driving
 - Cost of Level 2 vs Level 3 chargers
 - Level 2, dual port = ~\$46k
 - Level 3, dual port = ~\$90k
- 5) Example of revenue structures:
 - No fee
 - Per kWh
 - Hourly rate
 - Connection fee
 - Flat rate
 - Private vs. Government
 - Total cost to charge: \$5-\$30. Average is around ~\$10 for full charge.

Public EV Charger - Questions

- Cost of solar EV charger vs grid EV charger?
 - Example: St. Paul
 - 25 units, 6 solar-powered stations (\$286k)
 - Unit cost \$35,000 vs \$6,700
 - Utility rebates
 - Example: Duluth

- First regional solar EV station, 9 solar-powered stations (\$378k)
- Solar carport, 7-8 homes per year
- Net zero - electricity feeds into grid when unused

Staff Recommendations

- LED lighting project (~\$105,000)
 - Planned expense + Existing Council Support/Funding
 - Significant kWh and cost savings
 - Lays groundwork for additional energy projects onsite (solar, EV charger, etc.)
- Other thoughts
 - More EV funding coming
 - 2024+ work plan priorities

Commissioner Ruiz asked if a charger would be included in the EV fleet vehicle project costs and Mrs. Sutherland responded in the affirmative, that a quote would need to be received to council directed staff to research this project.

Commissioner Sethre reminded the Commission of the additional expenses associated with a fleet vehicle at the previous meeting, include training and maintenance. Mrs. Sutherland stated this is correct and that the fleet budgeting process would need to be reviewed and revised.

Commissioner Sethre asked if peak charging costs are reflected in the fee charged to the customer. Mrs. Sutherland stated most utilities have special charging rates that can be factored into customer fees.

Commissioner Fell is in favor of the public electric vehicle charging station at the VMCC for the return on investment (ROI).

Commissioner Trenzeluk is in favor of the EV fleet vehicle as it saves money and energy and sends a strong sustainability message. He and Commissioner Ruiz attended the Metro Environmental Conference and saw the cost savings the City of Eden Prairie has seen experienced with a transition to EV fleet vehicles. He still has questions about battery disposal and lifecycle analysis. He stated the LED project is already planned and doesn't send a strong sustainability message.

Commissioner Goodman is in favor of the EV fleet vehicle for the ROI and climate impact. She stated the LED project is already planned and prefers using the grant to start the transition to electric vehicles.

Commissioner Sethre is in favor of the LED project for the ROI. He is concerned about how lithium-ion batteries are sourced.

Commissioner Mikulski is in favor of the LED project for the ROI. She is also concerned about how lithium-ion batteries are sourced.

Commissioner Bohemke is in favor of the public EV charger project as it produces the least amount of waste.

Commissioner Ruiz asked where the money saved on the LED project goes if the grant was applied to that. Mrs. Sutherland stated this would remain in the capital improvement fund for future projects.

Commissioner Savage stated she is in favor of the EV vehicle for the fleet vehicle replacement. She stated the LED project is already planned and would recommend the commission selects a project the commission is proud of and that leads to change.

Commissioner Ruiz is in favor of the public EV charger project.

Motion by Commissioner Fell, seconded by Commissioner Ruiz to recommend the EECBG funds be used towards purchase and installation of an electric vehicle public charging station at the VMCC.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 4 Motion fails.

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Sethre to recommend the EECBG funds be used towards replacing a fleet vehicle with an electric vehicle.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 3 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Fell asked if there are any updates on the death and contamination of the bald eagles in Inver Grove Heights. Mrs. Sutherland stated the matter is still under investigation by the US Fish and Wildlife service and a Department of Justice trail attorney. Once the city receives an update from the investigation the city will determine how to respond. The MPCA has deferred the investigation to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Commissioner Sethre shared that Commissioner Savage has blog posts available at www.minnpost.com/author/marjorie-savage/ and has published two books. He is thankful to have her as part of the commission.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Fell, seconded by Commissioner Trenzeluk to adjourn at 8:35p.m.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.