

**Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership
ENERGY VISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minneapolis City Hall, Room 319

Monday, August 29, 2016

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Q3 2016 Meeting Notes

Committee members present: Chairs: Jamez Staples, Billy Weber. Members: Louis Alemayehu, Trevor Drake, Chris Duffrin, John Farrell, Janne Flisrand, Timothy Gaetz, Matt Kazinka, Annie Levenson-Falk

Committee members excused: Cameran Bailey, Sydney Jordan, Kevin Lewis, Karen Monahan, Julia Silvis

Guests: Timothy DeHerder-Thomas, Sean Gosiewski, Eric Immler, Marcus Mills, Isaac Smith

Planning Team/staff present: Bridget Dockter, Peter Ebnet, Robin Garwood, Luke Hollenkamp, Nick Mark, Louis Mondale, Kelly Muellman, Gayle Prest, , Al Swintek, Marsha Wagner

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Billy Weber called the meeting of the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) to order. He reviewed the agenda, then invited Luke Hollenkamp, new Planning Team member in Minneapolis Sustainability Office, to introduce himself.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda and Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes from May 23 (Q2 2016) be approved. Motion CARRIED.

3. 2017-2018 EVAC Application Reminder

Co-Chair Jamez Staples announced that EVAC members who would like to continue to serve for the next two-year term, and also any new applicants who would like to be considered, should submit an application by September 12.

4. Introduction of Facilitator, Amanda Ziebell Rowanda

Peter Ebnet said that in response to the rushed nature of the previous 2015-2016 Work Plan development, a small group of EVAC members discussed ways in which they could more fully go through the process to understand what EVAC was planning to do and ultimately wanted out of the next 2017-2018 Work Plan. The Planning Team selected Amanda Ziebell Rowanda from a recommended list of facilitators, sent by EVAC members. Peter referenced materials provided by the Planning Team to aid in setting context and help guide and inform the discussion.

Bridget Dockter referenced a slide that showed a timeline for the remainder of 2016 that will also be helpful in discussions, along with updated multi-family building efficiency data from the

combined CenterPoint-Xcel program that gives program totals but is also specific to Minneapolis.

Amanda Ziebell Rowanda, who has a background in organizational leadership and development, provides facilitation and strategic planning to a variety of organizations and groups. She will guide EVAC members through discussions that will help prioritize items for the next 2017-2018 Work Plan. Because we were short five EVAC members, she invited guests present and interested who were not members of EVAC to participate in the activities to provide additional input.

5. Facilitated 2017-2018 Work Plan Discussion

The first exercise was for everyone present, not just EVAC members, to pair up with someone they did not know and interview them using a series of questions:

- What do you do (job or role as related to this topic)? What do you find most meaningful about your work?
- If you weren't here tonight, where would you be? What brings you here instead of doing that?
- What are two goals that you have for EVAC, one personal goal and one goal for the group? [Attendees spent ten minutes in the interview process, then reported back to the group.]

Amanda asked for a few examples of goals for EVAC, not personal goals, that were brainstormed in the interviews. The following were put forth:

- Win-win solutions that work for everyone in the process
- Having EVAC pull on the levers to push the City and utilities to make real changes
- Have neighborhood champions become more interested or engaged in sustainability initiatives in addition to the other important things they work on
- Use the expertise of the group on finding new solutions
- Name the systemic challenges to the work that EVAC has identified
- Get to some concrete ideas about how EVAC is going to move forward

The next exercise was for EVAC members and other interested parties to break into five discussion groups for the purpose of reviewing the following assigned areas taken from the current 2015-2016 Work Plan: City Enterprise and Coordination; Multi-family Residential; Residential, 1-4 Unit; Small Commercial; Large Commercial.

Each group was given some background information on their assigned area. Their first task was to summarize the current 2015-2016 Work Plan, putting key goals and activities on flipchart sheets to provide a snapshot to other group members for subsequent input. Planning Team members were available to answer questions and provide additional clarification upon request. Each group reported back, giving an overview of their topic.

City Enterprise & Coordination (Matt Kazinka, Louis Alemayehu, EVAC; Sean Gosiewski)

- LED streetlight conversion is underway
- Studying opportunities for converting the city fleet to more renewable sources
- Community Solar Garden RFP for the city to be a main subscriber

- Coordination between the city and utilities on shared infrastructure

Multi-family Residential (Tim Gaetz, Janne Flisrand, EVAC; Marcus Mills)

- Increase participation up to 75 percent of building owners and tenants
- Identify multi-family energy efficiency programs
- Participate with Community Solar Gardens and Wind Gardens
- Mapping to identify who will be eligible for these projects
- Reach out to them through community engagement
- Explore city policies that govern energy programs

Residential, 1-4 Unit (Annie Levenson-Falk, Jamez Staples, EVAC; Eric Immler)

- Use data from Xcel and CenterPoint to inform the development of new programs
- Explore policy levers to increase participation
- Develop at least one new option for financing energy efficiency improvements
- Increase participation in energy efficiency and renewable energy

Small Commercial (Chris Duffrin, Trevor Drake, John Farrell, EVAC)

- Analyze and map participation in existing utility programs for small commercial programs across the city
- Specific to the Lake Street corridor process of partners in energy, monitor participation of small business

Commercial Building (Billy Weber, EVAC; Timothy Denherder-Thomas)

- 20 percent energy use reduction by 2025 (from the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan)
- Developing targeted marketing approaches (i.e. Energy Use Reduction Challenge), new data access tools for business owners/managers, educational efforts and enhanced utility energy efficiency programs
- Mapping current and past program utilization and benchmark scores
- Developing tools for multi-metered buildings to access whole building data
- Launching a recognition program to promote and encourage energy efficiency
- Developing resource workshops to provide businesses in certain industries with technical assistance, financing and other resources

Next they added any additional ideas/items not included in the current 2015-2016 Work Plan, first on their group's flipchart sheet(s), then on flipchart sheet(s) of the other groups, adding their initials following any added items so the Planning Team could follow up with them if necessary. A "bike rack" sheet was used for any items that did not fit within one of the existing five areas. EVAC members then voted to prioritize the items for consideration by the Planning Team for the next 2017-2018 Work Plan. Each EVAC member was given eight stickers to place on items they would most like to see considered in the 2017-2018 Work Plan.

Following the prioritization process, Amanda revisited the goals put forth by EVAC members earlier in the meeting. She said that while some of that had been accomplished in the group exercises during the meeting, much remains to be done as EVAC and the Planning Team move forward, especially and particularly the incorporation of the group's expertise. Amanda asked

EVAC members and others involved in the group exercises to review the flipchart sheets one more time before leaving the meeting. If there were particular item(s) that they were interested in engaging on more deeply with the Planning Team, she invited them to draw a circle around those item(s) and write next to it their name and preferred method of contact (email address or phone).

EVAC member Louis Alemayehu asked for clarification of win-win goals, and an example was given of aligning conservation goals of the utilities with the City’s greenhouse gas and community engagement goals. He said the challenge before this group begs the question of systems change, meaning that everyone has to change in some significant ways given that it’s no longer the 20th century and dramatic changes must be made in how we do energy. Community people, government and business will all have to operate in a different way. Amanda added “shared vision” to the list of goals or remaining questions that EVAC wishes to address as a group. At the suggestion of other attendees at the meeting she also added “impact of legislative policies” and “identification of overlapping goals.”

In closing, Amanda asked everyone present to give one word to describe the work done at this meeting:

Incomplete	Collaborative	Future	Swayed
Hopeful (2)	Enthusiastic	Surprised	Questionable
Intrigued (2)	Encouraged	Skeptical	Questioning
Appetized	Curious	Progress	Unyielding
Excited	Interesting	Guarded	

A written report, capturing all of the content from the exercises, will be submitted to Planning Team members. They will work with the Co-Chairs to determine what makes the most sense moving forward. EVAC will meet one more time before the Q4 2016 CEP Board Meeting to review and approve their recommendations for the 2017-2018 Work Plan.

6. Open Discussion and Announcements

- John Farrell mentioned three draft reports prepared by the Energy Democracy Initiative: Amping Up Benefits from Electric Vehicle Charging, Sparking Grid Savings Starts at Home, and Inclusive Financing for Efficiency and Renewable Energy. He brought cover sheets for each of them that contained web addresses; he invited interested parties to take copies. John will also send these documents to a member of the Planning Team.
- Jamez congratulated Chris Duffrin on his new job.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

*This constitutes my understanding of items discussed and decisions reached.
If there are any omissions or discrepancies, please notify the author in writing.*

Submitted by:

Marsha Wagner, CastleVisions

marsha@castlevisions.com