

**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2019
8150 Barbara Avenue
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met in regular session on Thursday, October 24, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. Chair Trenzeluk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ted Trenzeluk, Commissioners; Sarah Brass, Katherine Teiken, Patricia Todd, Aditya Jayam, Matt Mills.

Absent: Lauren DeGidio (Excused), Robert Heidenreich and Nichole Boehmke.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Brad Juffer, MAC (Metropolitan Airports Commission) - MSP Airport Update

Mr. Brad Juffer from the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) presented an informational presentation to the Commission on MAC, MSP Airport construction, trends in MSP aircraft activity and local noise complaints.

To describe how local noise complaints are handled, Mr. Juffer presented the roles of the entities involved in regulating noise oversight. The United States Congress has ultimate jurisdiction over air transportation. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is appointed by Congress to be responsible for safe and efficient movement of aircraft and therefore, makes the ultimate decision of how airways are used at federally funded and controlled airports. The FAA ensures airports with Noise Reduction Programs comply with Federal airport noise rules.

MAC owns and maintains MSP national airport. The MAC collects and analyses noise data and reports on aircraft noise trends. MAC also facilitates discussions with the airlines, FAA and citizens. MAC receives and records noise complaints and administers residential noise reduction programs. MAC cannot dictate how, when or where airplanes fly. Only the FAA can.

The MSP Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) consists of city and airline representatives. The Committee works with MAC and the FAA to help identify ways to reduce aircraft noise in communities surrounding MSP.

Mr. Juffer noted that all aircraft noise complaints should be filed at www.macnoise.com so that all complaints are recorded by MAC.

Mr. Juffer noted that the volume of complaints received from Inver Grove Heights residents has receded since 2017, but the number of households filing complaints increased in 2019.

Chair Trenzeluk asked what is the most effective way for a resident to submit a complaint. Mr. Juffer stated that contacting either the city or MAC. If the resident contacts the city, they will ultimately be referred to MAC and asked to submit a formal complaint through MAC's online reporting system.

Commissioner Mills asked how air quality is affected by a shift towards large planes. Mr. Juffer stated the MSP Airport is subject to both Federal and State environmental laws. New planes are more fuel efficient, have decreased emissions and have quieter engines than older planes that they replace.

B. Xcel Energy - Partners in Energy Program

Mrs. Tami Gunderzik from the Xcel Energy presented an informational presentation to the Commission about Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program.

Mrs. Gunderzik noted the program is a voluntary two-year collaboration with Xcel Energy and a partner city established to develop and implement the community's energy planning goals. Once a community is selected to participate in the program, a stakeholder group of city representatives and community members is created. Xcel Energy will work with the task force to inform the group of the community's current energy use, demographics and existing utility program participation. Throughout the program, Xcel Energy will continue to collaborate with the community and provide resources to help identify the community's future energy vision and ultimately develop an Energy Action Plan.

Ms. Gunderzik noted that applications for the next program round are due in January 2020.

Commissioner Jayam asked staff if the City Council would need to approve the program. Ms. Sutherland responded that if the Environmental Commission supported this program that staff will bring this item to the City Council and would seek their support as well.

Commissioner Teiken stated she likes how communities are allowed flexibility to develop their own goals while relying on Xcel Energy resources to help plan and implement the goals. Commissioner Teiken stated she is in support of the program.

Ms. Sutherland asked how Xcel Energy would partner with Dakota Electric as Inver Grove Heights is also within their utility territory. Mrs. Gunderzik stated that they would be invited to be a part of the stakeholder group. They also work with Dakota Electric to co-promote to those areas during outreach implementation. Dakota Electric has previously collaborated with Xcel Energy on other city's Partners in Energy programs.

Commissioner Jayam asked if there is any funding support or if there is only design support for communities. Mrs. Gunderzik stated that there is typically only design support in the planning phase, but the consulting services provided to communities are equivalent to about \$40,000 to \$60,000. In the implementation phase, the cost of Xcel Energy project management services provided to communities is near this same rate. During the implementation phase, there may be some dollars available to assist with printing and purchasing food for workshops depending on the community's available resources. Commissioner Teiken noted that community members complete energy audits as a result of targeted outreach may benefit from qualifying for rebates or other incentives. This provides direct support to community members.

Commissioner Jayam asked how much of the community is served by Xcel Energy versus Dakota Electric. Ms. Sutherland noted the majority of Inver Grove Heights community members are served by Xcel Energy but that there are still users in Dakota Electric so the city would want to involve that utility as well. Mrs. Rand stated that the more rural south western portion of our city falls within Dakota Electric territory.

Commissioner Jayam asked if we have any existing energy planning goals. Ms. Sutherland responded that the city does not have any goals directly related to energy however this program fits within our existing Greenstep Cities program and sustainability goals.

Chair Trenzeluk noted that this program would be a benefit to both the existing Greenstep Cities program and small businesses.

Motion by Commissioner Teiken, seconded by Commissioner Jayam to recommend City Council pursues the Partners in Energy Program.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Updated agenda format

Agenda and minutes have been updated to a similar format used by other City Advisory Commissions and City Council.

B. Next meeting - November 21, 2019 (third Thursday due to holiday) Regular Meeting 7:00pm.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of June 27, 2019 Environmental Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Teiken to approve the minutes from June 27, 2019 with suggested changes.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. REGULAR AGENDA

8. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Trenzeluk noted that he is still interested in discussing rain garden marketing and student commissioners at future Commission meetings. Once he completes background research on the topic he will bring the item to the Commission.

Commissioner Brass is interested in researching what resource other communities are providing to their residents to help manage buckthorn. Once she completes background research on the topic she will bring the item to the Commission.

Commissioner Trenzeluk reminded the Commissioners they are welcome to suggest an environmental topic of interest for the Commission to consider by adding it to an agenda for discussion.

10. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Brass, seconded by Commissioner Jayam to adjourn. The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm. Motion approved unanimously.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.