

**Rochester/Olmsted Planning Department
Energy Commission
Campus Conf Rm A
2122 Campus Drive SE**

Regular Meeting

January 09, 2018
04:30 PM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 3.1. Meeting Minutes from 12/12/2017
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**
- 5. RECENT COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**
- 6. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
 - 6.A. *Election of Commission Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary***
- 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - 7.A. *Energy Action Plan Prioritization***
 - 7.A.1. REC Energy Action Plan Tracking
 - 7.B. *MSU/WSU Intern***
 - 7.C. *Committee Updates***
- 8. DECISION ITEMS**
- 9. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**
- 10. ADJOURN**

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Rochester Energy Commission
Rochester /Olmsted planning Department
Campus Conference Room A
2122 Campus DR SE
Rochester, MN 55904

December 12, 2017
Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rochester Energy Commission was called to order by Chair Richey at 4:30 PM.

ATTENDANCE/COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS:

- Members attending: Anna Richey, Edward Cohen, Raymond Schmitz, Cory Rubin, Kelly O'Marro, Steve Nyhus, Dave Reichert, Kim Norton (by phone)
- Staff attending: Jeff Ellerbusch, Ryan Yetzer, (Planning Dept.), Kevin Bright
- Guests in attendance: Gael Entrikin, Megan Gallagher, Rick Morris, Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Todd Renard

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

Reichert moved, seconded by Schmitz to approve the minutes of October 10th. **Motion passed with all voting in favor.**

RECENT COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES:

Commissioners Norton, Cohen, Reichert, Schmitz, and Richey provided an update regarding relevant activities that they participated in throughout the last month.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS- REC Cancellation Policy- Lack of Quorum:

Commissioner Reichert brought up that the Energy Commission meetings are utilized as a good place to share information, therefore he feels the meetings should be held with or without a quorum. There was general agreement that in the future, meetings will continue without a quorum. However, any speakers will be cancelled and Commission members will be notified that there will not be a quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS- Add presentation by Megan Moeller from Rochester Public Works as a discussion item:

Schmitz moved, seconded by Nyhus to add a presentation by Megan Moeller from Rochester Public Works as a discussion item. **Motion passed with all voting in favor.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS- Presentation by Rochester Public Works- Megan Moeller:

Moeller presented regarding the 219-grant project titled The Zumbro River Starts Here Project. Moeller informed Commissioners of the Stormwater Management Demonstration Site taking place on the eastern side of the City's 3rd Street Parking Ramp. There was a short Q & A following her presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEM- Presentation by Solar United Neighbors- Virginia Rutter:

Rutter informed the Commissioner of the Solar United Neighbors program. Rutter outlined the Solar United Neighbors process and what she would need from this group if the Commission is interested in helping this program get started in Rochester. Q & A and general discussion took place following her presentation.

Schmitz moved, seconded by Reichert for the Energy Commission to agree to help sponsor a community meeting by Solar United Neighbors in 2018. **Motion passed with all voting in favor.**

DISCUSSION ITEM-REC Presentation to COW:

Richey provided the Commissioner with an update regarding the presentation she gave to the City Council Committee of the Whole on November 27th. Discussion ensued around this topic, along with some suggestions for future presentations to the City Council.

DECISION ITEMS- Review/Schedule Committees:

Commissioner Richey asked if the Planning department would send a note to those who volunteered to serve on the waste hauling or school outreach committees to see when they would like to meet.

RPU LIAISON'S REPORT:

Nyhus updated the Commission on RPU's Community Solar Project. RPU had 73 community members at their last community meeting, their highest number yet. RPU is up to 151 solar subscribers, purchasing a total of 644 solar panels.

SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Bright updated the Commission on what he has been working on lately. Of note, the launch of the Sustainability Series will take place tomorrow at the Rochester Public Library, and Bright will be meeting with Dave Dunn about locating some volunteers to start entering units and installing improved energy efficiency products.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Schmitz, seconded by Reichert. **Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.**

Energy Action Plan Tracking

Item	Impact/Control	Scope	Status at High Level	Recommended Specific Actions
Energy Action Plan (EAP)		Approved by City Council July, 2017 to incorporate "... energy and greenhouse gas reduction initiatives ... into Rochester’s growth plans ..."	Approved	
Goals		From the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act 1.5% annual retail energy savings 25% renewable energy by 2025 GHG emissions reductions of 15% by 2015, 30% by 2025 and 80% by 2050	Approved	
Baseline Data		Maintain/update City's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission profile Utilize Greenstep Cities, B3 and other databases	Assigned to Sustainability Engineer	
----- From EAP Section 8.0 "Significant" Opportunities for Improvement and Recommended Best Practices -----				
Improvement Opportunities - Power Generation and Supply	Significant Impact/Significant Control	Generation Portfolio – The City can prepare for capturing the benefits of its own generation by continuing to shift away from fossil fuels toward renewable resources, including: increased and distributed solar increased hydroelectric geothermal evaluation increased biogas utilization increased solid waste utilization	RPU Resources Plan	
	Significant Impact/Significant Control	RPU Supply Side Efficiency - Generate more electricity with the same or less fuel through replacement and upgrading of power generating units and reduction of losses through transmission and distribution.	RPU Resources Plan	
	Significant Impact	Community Education – As the City of Rochester (presently) has limited control over the emissions footprint associated with the portfolio of purchased power the best approach for the City to realize emissions reductions is by reducing the demand. The City can offer tips and incentivize the public to increase conservation and reduce consumption.	Ongoing?	
	Significant Impact	Optimization of Community Power Generation - RPU is a member of the Energy Integration Committee (EIC), a new community group of energy generators and large users created to evaluate opportunities for collaboration in realizing energy efficiency across organizations in the DMC District. The City can support the work of the EIC through RPU’s engagement and otherwise.	EIC in place and meeting	
	Significant Impact	Expansion of Behind the Meter Generation - When the SMMPA contract expires in 2030, City agencies like the Wastewater Reclamation Plant will have additional flexibility to generate more of their own low-carbon power and directly account for carbon reductions. In addition, RPU will have new flexibility to incentivize more aggressive development of “behind the meter” power generation, such as roof-top and community solar, without being constrained by present contractual power purchase obligations.	Available in 2030	

Communication: REC Energy Action Plan Tracking (Energy Action Plan Prioritization)

	Significant Impact	Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility - Facility was expanded in 2010 and OWEF has the capacity to divert substantially more waste from land disposal. The two most promising opportunities are, first, to source and convert more regional mixed municipal solid waste (MMSW) into steam and, second, to sell more steam and electricity to community users, recognizing regulatory limitations set by PURPA.	County? EIC?	
Improvement Opportunities - Buildings	Significant Impact/Significant Control	Sustainable Building Policies – The adoption of sustainable building policies that apply to planning, design, construction and commissioning of new and significant modification construction projects present a significant opportunity to mitigate GHG emissions.	Progress within DMC	
	Significant Impact/Significant Control	Retro-commissioning – Retro-commissioning could be a cost-effective way for Rochester to reduce energy use and GHG emissions from City and community-owned buildings. Retro-fitting technologies encompass technologies such as upgrading lighting systems to LED lights over conventional lightbulbs or heating upgrades.	City building pilot project underway	
	Significant Impact	Energy Conservation Programs - Partnering in Energy Solutions provides financing for RPU’s commercial customers’ energy improvement projects. In 2015, RPU calculated that the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) saved 19,220,885 kWh, which was 103.7% of RPU’s goal. This is the equivalent of 19,221 tons of CO2 saved. Continuing and expanding the Conserve and Save® and CIP programs could help the City of Rochester meet its energy and carbon goals.	RPU programs	
	Significant Impact	Efficiency Improvement in Water Consumption to produce energy - Community water conservation programs have been implemented and have realized water and energy conservation benefits in Rochester. Water efficiency programs have reduced the average customer water use by 28%, and there is a direct, associated energy savings. These programs could be expanded to realize additional, significant impacts.	RPU programs	
Improvement Opportunities - Transportation	Significant Impact/Significant Control	Develop transportation corridors, nodes and parking which minimize vehicle miles travelled (VMT) – The initial EAP did not do a detail evaluation of this opportunity but the P2S process includes a detailed analysis of this significant impact, significant control opportunity to minimize VMT and GHG emissions from transportation.	Planning & Zoning?, Master Plan?	
	Significant Control	Evaluate Fleet Conversion – While performance in vehicles and equipment will influence implementation, a number of new fuel sources for all types of fleet vehicles are available. The City can discuss these two supply options with various providers: Dimethyl Ether (DME) - DME is a diesel substitute and can be consumed in heavyequipment, trucks, and buses, and, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)/Renewable NG (RNG)	Public Works?	

Communication: REC Energy Action Plan Tracking (Energy Action Plan Prioritization)

	Significant Control	Electric Charging/Solar Stations – Partnerships with electric providers, large fleet owners, and other NGOs can support acceleration of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for large fleet owners and the general public to supply another transportation fuel option that is anticipated to deliver substantial emissions reductions. Currently the P2S effort does not include an evaluation of how electrification might be facilitated but the City could augment the P2S study with this evaluation and capitalize on a timely opportunity to do so in an optimal and cost-efficient manner.	RPU?, Public Works?	
	Significant Control	Increased Public Transit to Reduce Single Occupancy Trips - There is a widely known shortage of parking in the City of Rochester, which is one way to encourage riders of public transit. Increasing the service options, bus routes, and hours of service could reduce single occupancy vehicle trips and reduce traffic congestion and GHG emissions. The current bus system is primarily designed to move Mayo employees, with limited operating hours and days. Addressing the needs of the broader and expanding community should be considered.	Public Works?	
	Significant Control	Greenways for pedestrian and bike traffic only - Greenways allowing only pedestrian and bike traffic would increase walking and biking trips and reduce VMT. Promoting safe ways to make daily travel trips would encourage residents and employees to walk or bike when possible and would promote a culture of walkability that may extend into other aspects of residents' lives. The provision of networked bike lanes and public education campaigns to "share the road" are effective means of promoting carbon-free, healthy transport. The Complete Streets standard could be more closely adhered to promote pedestrian and bike traffic, as well.	Planning & Zoning?, Master Plan?	
	Significant Impact	Expand Sharing Programs - If the City of Rochester initiates and expands transportation sharing programs among its employees, single passenger vehicle travel could reduce, VMT could be reduced, and transportation-related GHG emissions and energy expenditures could be reduced.	City Administration?, Public Works?	
		END		
D Reichert, Nov. 2017				

Communication: REC Energy Action Plan Tracking (Energy Action Plan Prioritization)