



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 30, 2024 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call

Committee Attendees: Chair Lauren Lindelof, KC Chermak, Meaghan Yorro, and Ed Chute.

Wayzata City Staff Member: Nick Kieser, Parks and Environment Planner.

Additional Attendees: Todd Burlet, President Starry Skies North

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda, first by Chute, seconded by Chermak. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approve June 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as shown, first by Chermak, seconded by Lindelof. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Dark Sky Initiative Presentation

Todd Burlet, President of Starry Skies North, provided a presentation on the Dark Skies Initiative. The presentation covered types of light pollution (glare, clutter, light trespass, and skyglow), impacts of light pollution (environmental justice, health and wellness, cultural heritage, wildlife and ecosystems, astro tourism, sustainability, awe and beauty, healthy aging), five lighting principles for responsible outdoor lighting, what are other cities have accomplished, good and bad examples of lighting, and the urban night sky places initiative.

The American Medical Association notes that street lights should generally be less than 3000K to reduce the risk of medical issues. Some cities have a standard policy that would dim lights down at 30% at 11:00 pm and 50% at 12:00 pm, or similar measures. Specifically, near lakes and streams, blue light exposure can lead to more algae growth that to significant changes in the aquatic habitat. Overall, 35% of outdoor lighting is wasted by shining upwards. St. Paul has street lights that dim at night and come on as people walk by the lights.

Dark Sky Businesses is an option for businesses to receive training and promotion for making changes to their lighting operations. One opportunity is to make businesses turn off their indoor lights at night and turn them back on when the business opens. Plymouth, Bloomington, and Northfield are all great examples of good lighting Ordinances that could be researched. Wayzata could create different zones that would have specific lighting regulations based on those specific zones. Full cutoff shields, warm color temperatures, active controls and curfews, lumen limits, and pole height are all regulatory options to pursue. The first three in this list would be the most beneficial.

Design Light Consortium (DLC) is an organization that checks to ensure that the light specifications are accurate. The DLC has a list of certified lights that would work in each scenario. An Urban Night

Sky Place (UNSP) could be an option that Wayzata could pursue for a park area. There are specific requirements to qualify for a UNSP that the Committee could work on to send in an application for a specific location.

Staff noted that this initiative could be separated into three phases:

1. Create a new Ordinance with specific lighting requirements for new developments.
2. Create educational materials that are promoted in city media outlets and sent directly to businesses and/or residents. The Committee could focus on a specific corridor or area, like Lake Street, to focus efforts to make changes.
3. Create a policy that covers city lighting. Changes in city lighting could also start with a focus area to show success before changes are brought city-wide.

5. Sustainability Champion Award

Staff noted that the Sustainability Champion Award will be promoted throughout August to accept nominations. The Committee had a few small changes to the proposed nomination form that staff will incorporate.

6. Local Climate Action Grant Update

The MPCA has notified staff that the grant will be awarded to Wayzata to conduct a study of city sustainability options. This study will also provide an implementation plan that the Committee and staff can work to complete. Staff will continue to provide updates, but the next step is to get an agreement approved between the MPCA and the city.

7. Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 27

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting, first by Chermak, seconded by Yorro. Motion passed unanimously.