

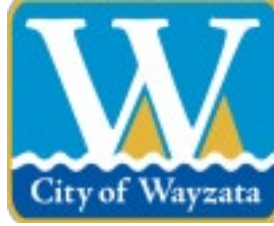


ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 26, 2025 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**Wayzata City Hall
600 Rice Street East
Wayzata, MN 55391**

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve July 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes
4. Dark Sky Event Discussion
5. Dark Sky Lighting Update
6. Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 30
7. Adjournment



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Committee Attendees: Chair Lauren Lindelof, Ed Chute, David Ferri, and David Kirkland.
Wayzata City Staff Member: Nick Kieser, Parks and Environment Planner.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda, first by Ferri, seconded by Chute. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Approve June 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes, first by Lindelof and seconded by Ferri. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Dark Sky Event Discussion

The Committee discussed the proposed Dark Sky event, considering City Hall and City Hall Park as the primary locations. Alternative venues such as The Depot or the Great Lawn were also identified as potential options. The Committee determined that a late September date would be most appropriate, as earlier sunsets would allow for improved night sky viewing.

In the event of poor weather, the Committee noted the possibility of utilizing a tent or a portable dome provided by the Bell Museum to simulate night sky viewing. Potential partners identified for the event include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Astronomical Society, the Minnesota Ornithological Society, Wayzata High School, and local restaurants. The Committee also recommended contacting Dark Sky representative Todd Burlet for additional insight and potential partner connections.

The Committee agreed to schedule the event for Friday, September 26, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. As part of the educational programming, a tour of Panoway will be incorporated to demonstrate the impacts of light pollution in that area.

Committee members identified specific follow-up actions:

- **Lindelof** will contact the DNR and the Bell Museum regarding partnership opportunities.
- **Kirkland** will reach out to the Minnesota Astronomical Society.
- The Committee also expressed interest in engaging a photographer specializing in night sky, planetary, and aurora photography.
- **Staff** will coordinate a meeting with Mr. Burlet to discuss event details and additional connections.

Kirkland also provided an update on his research into replacing the field lights at Klapprich Park with Dark Sky compliant fixtures. He noted that such replacements could significantly reduce glare, save energy, and lower costs.

5. Partners in Energy Data Dashboard

Staff reviewed the Partners in Energy Data Dashboard, provided by Xcel Energy, with the Committee. One of the most significant findings was a reduction in kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage in 2024. Partners in Energy staff observed that this reduction was unique to Wayzata, as comparable declines were not reported in other participating communities. Committee members were encouraged to continue reviewing the dashboard and to share any additional questions with staff.

6. Natural Resources Partner Coalition Participation

Staff presented information on the benefits of participating in the Natural Resources Partner Coalition, a free initiative designed to facilitate knowledge sharing among cities and organizations. The Coalition is led by experts in the natural resources sector and provides smaller cities with access to information and best practices that help them remain proactive and informed.

Participation would involve staff attending regular meetings, sharing updates on Wayzata's current initiatives, and providing the Committee with occasional updates on relevant information gathered through the Coalition. Staff emphasized that there are no requirements for participation other than attending the meetings.

The Committee expressed support for joining the Coalition, noting the value of learning from other communities and leveraging sector expertise.

Motion to approve the participation in the Natural Resources Partner Coalition, first by Kirkland and seconded by Ferri. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 26

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, first by Ferri, seconded by Kirkland. Motion passed 4-0.

Dark Sky Event Proposed Schedule

7:00 - Introduction

7:05 - 7:20 - Todd Burlet introduces Dark Skies

7:20 - 7:35 - U of M presentation

7:35 - 7:40 - Overview of the night

7:40 – 8:30 – Telescope viewing

8:30 – 9:00 – Walking tour

Stop at Muni after event

Dark Skies

A Family-Friendly Event hosted at City Hall
Friday, September 26 | 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Enjoy an engaging talk about the Dark Sky program and how lighting impacts our community, learn about nocturnal birds, explore the stars and planets through telescopes with the University of Minnesota Universe in the Park, join in on family-friendly activities, and enjoy snacks under the night sky! Bring your own binoculars for an additional opportunity for a guided tour of the sky!

If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will gather instead on Friday, October 3. Let's come together to celebrate the beauty of our starlit skies!

*Hosted by the
Energy & Environment Committee*

