



# Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting

November 14, 2023

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

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## Agenda

### Call to Order

### Approval of Agenda

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of October 10, 2023

### New Business

2. Letters of Support for Trail Projects
3. Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Program

### Old Business

4. Energy Action Plan Updates
5. Outreach and Events Updates
6. Grant Updates

### Other Items

7. Informal Status Reports

### Adjournment

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Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs, or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact the City at (763) 572-3450.



# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2023    **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

**Submitted By:** Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

## Title

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Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of October 10, 2023

## Background

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Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of October 10, 2023.

## Recommendation

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Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of October 10, 2023.

## Attachments and Other Resources

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- Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes- October 10, 2023

### Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

October 10, 2023

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

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## MINUTES

### **Call to Order**

Chair Klemz called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Amy Dritz  
Aaron Klemz  
Mark Hansen  
Heidi Ferris

Absent: Nick Olberding  
Justin Foell  
Sam Stoxen

Others Present: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Hansen to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Dritz. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1. Approval of September 12, 2023 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Dritz to approve the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

2. Safe Routes to School Implementation Update

Ms. Workin discussed the City's planned Safe Routes to School grant application.

### **Old Business**

3. Energy Action Plan updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City tabled on energy efficiency at the Senior Fair and was planning to distribute light bulbs at the Coats from Cops event.

4. Outreach and Event updates

Ms. Workin shared that the Pollinator Planting events in September were successful.

5. Grant Updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City was waiting to hear back on forestry grants from the DNR.

**Other Items**

6. Informal Status Reports

**Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Hansen to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Dritz. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2023 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

**Submitted By:** Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

## Title

Letters of Support for Trail Projects

## Background

The City is in the process of preparing grant applications for two projects that were discussed at the October 10, 2023 meeting:

- 1) In partnership with Anoka County, the City is applying for funding under several programs including the Regional Solicitation program, the Local Roads Improvement Program, and the Highway Safety Improvement Program for the reconstruction of Mississippi Street in conformance with the [Mississippi St Roadway Modification Study](#) that was approved in 2020. This study recommended a four to three lane conversion throughout the majority of the corridor, replacing four-way stops at 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Monroe Street, and Central Avenue with mini-roundabouts, adding a trail along the southside of the road, expanding the sidewalk on the northside of the road, and increasing boulevard space.
- 2) The City is applying for Safe Routes to School funding through the Regional Solicitation Program to implement [several projects](#) identified in the Safe Routes to School Plans for Hayes Elementary School and Fridley Middle School, including:
  - A trail on the northside of 61<sup>st</sup> Aven between the University Avenue Service Road and Fridley Middle School
  - A trail on the eastside of 7<sup>th</sup> Street between 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Mississippi Street
  - Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Monroe Street
  - A trail connection along the northside of Commons Park/Fridley Middle School between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Jackson Streets

These projects are included in the City's Active Transportation Plan and/or an approved Safe Routes to School Plans. More information on the Safe Routes to School project can be found at [FridleyMN.gov/SafeRoutesToSchool](http://FridleyMN.gov/SafeRoutesToSchool)

## Recommendation

Staff recommend approval of the attached letters of support for these grant applications.

## Attachments and Other Resources

- Draft Letters of Support

## Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

November 14, 2023

Attn: Jim Kosluchar  
Public Works Director / City Engineer  
City of Fridley  
7071 University Avenue NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Re: City of Fridley Mississippi Street Reconstruction – Pursuit of Funding

Dear Jim,

On behalf of the City of Fridley’s Environmental Quality and Energy Commission (EQEC), I offer support for the City of Fridley’s funding application for the CSAH 6 (Mississippi Street) Reconstruction Project.

CSAH 6 is an Anoka County arterial roadway that runs east-west within the City of Fridley. The roadway is currently a four-lane undivided urban roadway and is largely low-density residential housing with pockets of high density residential, commercial, retail, institutional, and industrial land uses, including at CSAH 1 (East River Road), TH 47 (University Avenue), TH 65 and CSAH 35. Anoka County, in participation with the City of Fridley, initiated a roadway modification study to understand the local and regional corridor needs in consideration of access, mobility, and safety for all modes of transportation, and develop alternatives to meet those needs. Evaluate of the corridor focused on safety, operations and delay, and the impacts of the alternatives to right-of-way, access, costs, and the ability to enhance the user experience of all traffic modes.

The proposed improvements to Mississippi Street support the EQEC’s environmental priorities by addressing safety and mobility concerns in the corridor. Currently, the roadway is inadequate for pedestrians and bicyclists due to no shoulder, a very narrow sidewalk, and minimal to no boulevard space between pedestrians and moving vehicular traffic. This project will improve the safety of both motorist and pedestrian travel along the corridor through lane reductions, added shoulders, wider and multimodal walkways, and more boulevard space. Additional boulevard space will reduce impervious surfaces along the corridor and allow and create comfortable environments for non-vehicular travel.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing the Mississippi Street Reconstruction Project application.

Sincerely,

Aaron Klemz  
Chair  
Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

November 14, 2023

Attn: Jim Kosluchar  
Public Works Director / City Engineer  
City of Fridley  
7071 University Avenue NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Re: City of Fridley Safe Routes to Schools – Pursuit of Funding

Dear Jim,

On behalf of the City of Fridley’s Environmental Quality and Energy Commission (EQEC), I offer support for the City of Fridley’s funding application for the Safe Routes to Schools funding. The proposed improvements fill important gaps within the City’s existing trail network and will make the city safer for area students to walk, bike, and roll to school. These projects were identified as high priorities within the City’s Active Transportation Plan developed in consultation with the EQEC.

Sincerely,

Aaron Klemz  
Chair  
Environmental Quality and Energy Commission



# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2023    **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

**Submitted By:** Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

## Title

Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Program

## Background

The City's approved Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Mitigation Plan guides the City to treat high quality public ash trees to reduce the impacts of EAB on Fridley's urban forest. In 2019, the City of Fridley issued its first Request for Proposal for EAB treatment services which was awarded to Rainbow Treecare (RTC) for 2019-2020 and then extended 2021-2023. The number of trees treated through the program were:

	City Trees	Non-City Trees
2019 (Group A, Year 1)	255	214
2020 (Group B, Year 1)	185	116
2021 (Group A, Year 2)	227	274
2022 (Group B, Year 2)	194	185
2023 (Group A, Year 3)	213	TBD

The City is preparing to issue another Request or Proposal to select a contractor to treat trees for the 2024-2026 seasons.

## Recommendation

Staff recommend that commissioners provide feedback on the EAB treatment program

## Attachments and Other Resources

- [FridleyMN.gov/EmeraldAsh](http://FridleyMN.gov/EmeraldAsh)

## Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.





# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2023    **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

**Submitted By:** Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

## Title

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Energy Action Plan Updates

## Background

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At the November 9, 2021 meeting, the EQEC recommended adoption of Phase 2 of the Energy Action Plan. The following activities were completed this past month:

- November newsletter on fall energy efficiency
- Coats from Cops light bulb kit distribution event

The following activities are projected:

- Door knocking Fridley Terrace (Spring 2024)

## Recommendation

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None

## Attachments and Other Resources

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None

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# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2023    **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

**Submitted By:** Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

## Title

Outreach and Events Updates

## Background

Outreach at community events is an important strategy to build environmental awareness and increase engagement. Events that have been completed since the last meeting as well as upcoming outreach events are listed below.

Completed events (10/11-11/14)

- Coats from Cops 10/26
- SRTS Project Open House 11/14

Confirmed events and topics

- 

Potential Upcoming Events

- HRA Open House, February
- Baby gear swap, Summer
- Garden gear swap, May

## Recommendation

None

## Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2023 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

**Submitted By:** Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

## Title

Grant Updates

## Background

The purpose of this item is to provide Commissioners updates on sustainability grants held by the City.

### Grants in the Pre-Application Stage

- Regional Solicitation Grant- Mississippi St Trail
- Regional Solicitation Grant- Safe Routes to School
- 2024 Street Project Rain Gardens

### Grants Under Review

- CERTS Seed grant for solar feasibility analysis
- CERTS Seed grant to promote home energy squad visits
- DNR Shade Tree Grant

### Active Grants

- Recycling grant (ongoing)
- Met Council Regional Solicitation Grant for 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge w/ Anoka County
- BWSR/RCWD grant for Moore Lake IESF project
- RCWD grant for road diet on University Ave Service Rd
- LRIP grant for 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Trail Project
- University Avenue Lighting Project
- Met Council Climate Mitigation grant for feasibility study of 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 3
- MDH Well Sealing Grant pt 3
- RCWD grant for sumps in Farr Lake neighborhood
- CCWD Water Quality Grant for Apex Pond
- DNR Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer Grant Pt. 3
- Anoka County grant to include organics recycling at Moore Lake Park building
- Dog Waste Stations in Moore Lake Park
- CDBG Grant for 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue Parcel
- Sylvan Hills Park Feasibility Study

## Vision Statement

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- DNR ReLeaf Grant
- Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning Grant to create a Safety Action Plan

#### Grants Closed (1/1/2021+)

- SHIP grant for wayfinding kiosk
- MDH Well Sealing Grant pt 2
- SHIP grant for bike fleet (SNC/Recreation)
- CCWD grant for Craig Park improvements
- Lawns to Legumes grant for Craig Park Bee Lawn
- RCWD grant for 6 raingardens in Rice Creek Terrace neighborhood
- Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (ACD grant in partnership with Coon Rapids, and Lino Lakes)
- SHIP grant for Civic Campus orchard
- CCWD grant for hydrodynamic separator in 2022 Street Project Area
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 2
- DNR Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer Grant pt. 2
- RS grant for 7<sup>th</sup> St Trail Project
- MnDOT Active Transportation Pilot Grant
- BWSR HELP grant for native plant restoration on Commons Park hillside
- MnDOT Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant for University Avenue
- CCWD Water Quality Grant for Sweepings Screener

#### **Recommendation**

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- None

#### **Attachments and Other Resources**

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- None

#### **Vision Statement**

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