

**Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met virtually via Zoom on Thursday, January 28, 2021. 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, Larry Moehring, Matt Mills, Robert Heidenreich and Nichole Boehmke

Absent: None

**3. Presentations**

**A. Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) Update**

Brad Juffer, Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), gave an informational presentation on 2020 MAC updates related to Inver Grove Heights. The roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved in airline transportation, including the MAC, Airlines and FAA were reviewed. Mr. Juffer also reviewed the Noise Oversight Committee's (NOC) role. NOC is a function of MAC and is made up of 6 community representatives and 6 aviation user representatives. NOC's goal is to identify, study and analyze airport noise issues for MAC owned airports within the Twin Cities. Heather Rand, Community Development Director, represents Inver Grove Heights on the NOC committee. NOC monitors compliance with established noise policy at MSP and provides policy recommendations for noise issues to other MAC commissions. NOC's 2021 Work Plan includes residential noise mitigation program, MSP airport community relations, and review of public input. In 2020, total number of airline flights were reduced drastically due to COVID-19 and related travel restrictions. The number of flights was reduced by 40% from 2019 to 2020 and the number of passengers per flight decreases significantly as well. Runway patterns were temporary varied in 2020 due to flight reductions. The number of airport noise complaints Inver Grove Heights residents increased from 2018 to 2019 but dropped 38% in 2020, likely correlated with the reduction in total flights. In 2020, all Inver Grove Heights noise complaints received by MAC were submitted by 20 addresses, and four of the addresses accounted for 98% of all complaints.

Chair Trenzeluk asked how a resident can submit a complaint and Mr. Juffer responded most complaints are submitted through their website, but a phone number is available as well.

Chair Trenzeluk asked if the city receives phone calls often or if people know to go to MAC's website. Mrs. Sutherland responded that the city receives phone calls but directs the caller to submit the complaint through the MAC's website so it is officially recorded.

Commissioner Moehring asked what the complaints are typically about and what proportion are usually able to be resolved. Mr. Juffer responded that the complaints vary by location. Residents in the North and Central areas of the city have noise complaints from 30L and 30R runway arrivals, where residents in the southwest area have noise complaints from 12R and 1-7 runway departures. Departures routes have more flexibility to be altered and therefore these concerns have a greater chance of being addressed.

Commissioner Teiken requested updates on the City of Eagan's FAA complaint. Mr. Juffer responded that residents of the City of Eagan researched airport traffic patterns that would potentially reduce aircraft noise in their city and proposed new patterns to their City Council. The proposal was later reviewed by NOC, MAC and FAA. FAA stated two of the proposals may be plausible but required additional NOC review. NOC found only one option would reduce noise in Eagan without significantly increasing the noise in other communities. This option would potentially reroute 9 daily departures to fly over commercial areas of Eagan and Mendota Heights instead of residential zones in Eagan. These 9 departures most likely fly over the southwest portion of Inver Grove Heights and may be moved to fly over the central portion. More testing is still needed before the proposal moves forward.

Commissioner Mills asked why the South St. Paul airport is not included in the MAC and Mr. Juffer responded that the City of South St. Paul has sufficient operations in place to manage it and there have been no discussions of MAC owning it that he is aware of.

#### **4. Announcements**

A. Next meeting - Thursday, February 25, 2021 - Virtual Regular Meeting 7:00pm

B. Xcel Energy Partners in Energy Status Update

Ms. Sutherland noted that the city was selected to the join Partners in Energy program in February 2020 and since has completed all 5 stakeholder engagement workshops. The Environmental Commission will be reviewing the Energy Action Plan developed by the stakeholder team to consider recommendation of approval at the February 2021 meeting.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

A. Minutes of Thursday, August 27, 2020 Environmental Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Heidenreich, seconded by Commissioner Moehring to approve the minutes from Thursday, August 27, 2020 as submitted.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0      Motion carried.

#### **6. Public Comment**

#### **7. Regular Agenda**

A. Consider recommending City Council approval of the Wetland Replacement Plan submitted by Canvas of Inver Grove Heights.

Mrs. Sutherland stated the applicant has proposed to construct a residential development located on the northeast quadrant of Hwy 3 and 70th Street in IGH that includes 120 single family detached homes, a mix of single-family lots, and a multifamily apartment area. Due to significant discussion about stormwater at the last meeting, Mrs. Sutherland clarified how the Environmental Commission should review and recommend approval of wetland replacement applications. She noted stormwater is not reviewed during the TEP review of the Wetland Replacement Plans. The city consults the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to review wetland replacement applications against the Wetland Conservation Act (ACT) rules and guidelines. Stormwater water plans are reviewed through a different city review process. First the preliminary site plan,

stormwater management plan and grading plans are reviewed and approved by city staff, and then reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission and City Council during a public review process. The Wetland Replacement Plan and Environmental Commission's recommendation are brought to the City Council for review and approval along with the final development plans for the proposed project.

Ms. Sutherland noted the applicant proposed 0.1528 acres of impacts and mitigation at 2:1 ratio by a purchase of 0.3056 acres of wetland bank credits from Wetland Bank Service Area #8 in Dodge County. Ms. Sutherland stated TEP determined the applicant meets all WCA rules and guidelines and recommends approval of the Wetland Replacement Plan as submitted by the applicant.

Chair Trenzeluk asked if the applicant could describe the green stormwater features proposed on the site. Ian Peterson, the applicant, stated they have exceeded total and contiguous open space requirements. He noted the site is challenging with the amount of grade changes, and that the road system location and need for turn lanes is the driver of the wetland impacts. They hope to develop a trail system along Allen Way, have exceeded stormwater requirements, and are developing narrow streets to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff.

Commissioner Moehring asked how stormwater runoff is being handle on the site. Mark Rausch, the project engineer, answered that stormwater is being treated by infiltration. They are retaining the water onsite and then filtering it into the ground onsite.

#### Environmental Commission Recommendation

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Teiken to recommend City Council approval of the Wetland Replacement Plan submitted by Canvas of Inver Grove Heights

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0      Motion carried.

#### B. Consider recommending City Council approval of the Wetland Replacement Plan submitted by Dakota County for CSAH 26

Mrs. Sutherland stated Dakota County and the Cities of Inver Grove Heights and Eagan are proposing to expand roughly 2 miles of County Road 26 from Trunk Highway 55 to Trunk Highway 3 from an existing two-lane roadway rural section to a four-lane divided urban highway. CR 63/Argenta Trail will also be reconstructed. The project purpose is to improve vehicle mobility, vehicle safety, and enhance walkability/bikeability along County Roads 26 and 63. The preliminary site plan, stormwater management plan and grading plan have been reviewed and approved by City staff, and by the Planning Commission and City Council during the public review process. The Wetland Replacement Plan and Environmental Commission's recommendation will be brought to the City Council for review and approval along with the final development plans for the proposed project.

Ms. Sutherland noted the applicant proposed 1.54 acres of impacts and is proposing to mitigate at a slightly higher than average ratio of 2.5:1 because they are purchasing wetland bank credits in a different service bank area than the impacted wetlands. Ms. Sutherland stated that Dakota County is unique in that it has several bank service areas, which is unlike other counties. Even though these are being mitigated in Band Service Area 8, it is still located in nearby in Dakota County. Mrs. Sutherland stated TEP determined the applicant meets all WCA rules and

guidelines and recommends approval of the Wetland Replacement Plan as submitted by the applicant.

Tom Kaldunski, the city engineer, reviewed ariel images of impacted wetlands included in the meeting packet and shared additional details of the impacts and location context. Mr. Kaldunski noted he supports TEP panel's recommendation.

Luke Moren, the project engineer, added that the largest wetland impact is due to the alignment of Highway 63/Argenta Trail. He stated the County and City went through an extensive alternative alignment study in 2016 that reviewed alignment options with varying degrees of wetland impacts. The alignment selected and ultimately approved by City Council is included in the proposed application. Funding and growth determined when final approvals were brought forward. Mr. Moren also noted there is a DNR pond along the Eagan and Inver Grove Heights boarder. The County is proposing trails on both side of County Road 26, and for that reason they are reducing the boulevard width and installing a retaining wall to reduce impacts to the water body as much as possible.

#### Environmental Commission Recommendation

Motion by Commissioner Teiken, seconded by Commissioner Mills to recommend City Council approval of the Wetland Replacement Plan submitted by Canvas of Inver Grove Heights.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0      Motion carried.

### **8. Administrative Presentations**

### **9. Commission Comments**

### **10. Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner Heidenreich, seconded by Commissioner Brass to adjourn at 8:17 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0      Motion carried.