

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: June 21, 2017	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Gary Eddy, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Greg Pariseau, Gary Schroeher, Eric Wagner (chair)	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	June Sinnett	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon	
VISITORS	Ben LeMay	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Staff suggested moving Item 6a. Introduction of new Environmental Commission Members after approval of the agenda. Commissioner Pariseau moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 7/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) May 17, 2017 meeting

The commission members reviewed the May 17, 2017 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Pariseau moved, seconded by Commissioner Schroeher, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 7/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Rich Hirstein, the City's contract hauler representative from Republic Services answered questions from commission members about the City contract, recycling, and organics collection. Rich explained that Republic has their own materials recovery facility (MRF) for processing recyclables; however, the current City contract requires Republic to take all recyclables to Eureka Recycling for processing. Each MRF accepts different materials; for example, Eureka does not accept #3 (PVC) and #6 (Polystyrene) plastic but Republic does. Eureka will accept bags of textiles; however, Republic does not provide a curbside pickup service for textiles. Rich mentioned that the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota will pick up used clothing and other household items for free. The commission members asked staff to bring the hauler contract to them for review and comment before the contract is renewed.

Rich stated that the biggest problem in the City is contamination in the recycling loads. Contamination in White Bear Lake ranges from 3% to 8% by weight, which is lower than the state allowable contamination of 15% in one month. The most prevalent contaminant found in the recycling bins are plastic bags. Other contaminants includes freezer boxes, empty oil containers, and sheets of glass. Rich explained that further education is key to reducing contamination in recycling.

When asked about providing curbside organics recycling, Rich explained that it is not economically feasible at this time to roll out curbside organics recycling. Starting with drop-off sites is a good first step towards increasing resident knowledge and participation. Republic does collect organics from businesses, where the material is brought to a facility in the southern twin cities and converted into compost.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Environmental Resource Expo

Commission members discussed an incentive to increase participation at exhibitor booths. Staff will create

a card with each exhibitor's name to pass out at the City table. Participants that get initials from at least eight booths will get a Cup and Cone coin.

The boy scouts and honor society will be at the event to help set up and take down.

b Budget Updates and Discussion

The total remaining budget for 2017 is \$389.60. Expenditures in June include a rain barrel for the give-away and two folding tables for the Expo.

c) Review last month's do-outs

Commission members reported on how many Cup and Cone coins they have left.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Introduction of new Environmental Advisory Commission Members

The newly appointed commission members, Gary Eddy and Chris Greene, introduced themselves and gave a brief introduction about their backgrounds.

b) New do-outs

- Bring Cup and Cone coins to the Expo
- Group photo at Expo-wear EAC shirts

7. DISCUSSION

• Staff Updates

- 2017 City of Excellence Awards

The City received a 2017 City of Excellence Award (for populations of 20,000+) from the League of MN Cities for its role in the Washington Square Downtown Dumpster Enclosure project. Our City Manager attended the awards ceremony on June 14th to accept the award.

- Water Efficiency Rebate

The City received an additional \$10,000 grant from Met Council to fund the water efficiency rebate through the end of June.

- Goose Lake Update

Staff provided an update on potential water quality improvement options identified in the VLAWMO Goose Lake Feasibility Study that was completed in May. The report lists four watershed based treatment options with a cost per pound of phosphorus removed between \$4000 to \$10,000. Also identified is an in-lake alum treatment with a cost per pound of phosphorus removed ranging from \$500 to \$1300. The partners (VLAWMO, City of White Bear Lake, St. Paul Water Utility, and Ramsey County) are interested in pursuing the in-lake alum treatment option. Next steps include conducting a sediment core analysis and applying for a Clean Water Grant to help fund the implementation. A commission member asked if nitrates are a cause of algae in Goose Lake. Staff will ask VLAWMO and report back at a future meeting.

• Commission Member Updates

Commission members gave an update on future EAC meetings. There will be no regularly scheduled EAC meeting in July because of the Environmental Resource Expo. The August meeting will be spent planning for 2018. A new commission member pointed out that the letter to new members states that the meetings begin at 7pm. Staff will update the letter to the correct the time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2017 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Pariseau, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm. Motion carried, vote 7/0.