

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: August 16, 2017	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Gary Eddy, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Greg Pariseau, Gary Schroehner, June Sinnett	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Eric Wagner	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon	
VISITORS	Julie Drennen, Conservation Minnesota	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:41pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Staff added the County Road 12 open house to Item 7 under staff updates. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) June 21, 2017 meeting

The commission members reviewed the June 21, 2017 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Pariseau moved, seconded by Commissioner Schroehner, to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Environmental Resource Expo

Commission members discussed successes as well as improvements to consider for next year. A great group of scouts and honor society students helped set up and take down again this year. Many of the exhibitors had interactive displays that drew large crowds. The Tesla and Nissan Leaf electric cars were a big attraction. The hybrid bus was in a better location and they had a higher turnout than in previous years. The free Ramsey County compost bins and reusable bags were very popular. Over 50 participants entered to win a free rain barrel. Angie Jary from White Bear Lake was the winner.

Staff reached out to the Marketfest coordinators after the event to gather feedback for next year. The coordinators thought the Expo went really well. They reiterated that we continue to be flexible with setup locations so we do not block storefronts. We need to stress the 5:30pm setup time and not block the sidewalks prior to 5:30pm. The coordinators also received many questions about booth/set-up locations. Commission members discussed providing water for exhibitors next year, having a sign to place at the door of the bus, enhancing the City table to draw a larger crowd, and adding an Environmental Advisory Commission banner. Staff suggested adding a note to the exhibitor instructions to notify us at least one day prior to the event if they cannot attend.

b) Budget Updates and Discussion

The total remaining budget for 2017 is \$389.60. Commission members discussed purchasing a banner for the Environmental Expo, and storm drain stenciling supplies. Staff will get a cost estimate for the banner and coordinate with the watershed districts regarding any existing storm drain stenciling programs. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to request a budget of \$500 for 2018. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

c) Review last month's do-outs

The commission members will continue to track 'Random Acts of Environmental Kindness' and email details to Commissioner Greenleaf.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Goose Management Plan

Staff reported that a resident approached the City about adopting a goose management policy. A policy is necessary for DNR permission to control geese on public and private property. Staff asked if commission members have observed any goose problems on public property. There are no observed on-going problems on City owned property, except for occasional goose droppings near the Manitou Island Bridge at Matoska Park and near the 17th green at Manitou Ridge Golf Course. Goose droppings were also found around the playground area at Matoska Elementary. The commission members are in support of adopting a goose management policy.

b) Fall newsletter

The fall newsletter will go to print the beginning of September. Commission members suggested including articles on yard waste disposal, the community water meeting, and the free Ramsey County compost bins.

c) 2018 Work plan

The September 21st Environmental Advisory Commission meeting will be dedicated to planning for 2018. Commission members will brainstorm possible work plan items prior to the September 20th meeting. Staff will email the 2014 U of M reports, which summarizes a list of potential environmental goals and projects on City property.

d) New do-outs

Commissioners:

- Email Commissioner Greenleaf details about Cup and Cone handouts
- Brainstorm work plan items prior to the September meeting

Staff:

- Email U of M reports to commission members prior to September meeting
- Cost estimate for EAC Banner
- Contact watershed districts re: storm drain stenciling

7. DISCUSSION

• **Staff Updates**

- **City website**

The newly designed City website will be live on August 17th. Staff created an environmental heading under 'Services' that includes information about recycling, water resources, natural resources, and sustainability. Environmental information will continue to be added to the website as time allows, with the goal of including all website topics discussed at past Environmental Advisory Commission meetings.

- **Master Water Stewards**

Rice Creek Watershed District is recruiting for the next class of Master Water Stewards and is interested in working with the City of White Bear Lake to identify and support a Master Water Steward dedicated to this area. At the August 8, 2017 City Council meeting, a resolution was passed supporting this effort. The staff liaison asked the commission members to contact her if they know of someone who may be interested in participating in the Master Water Steward program.

- **4th and Otter water quality project**

VLAWMO submitted a Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund Grant for the 4th and Otter water quality retrofit project. If awarded, the grant would help fund the design and construction of an iron enhanced sand filter and detention structure in the northeast corner of 4th and Otter to improve

the water quality of stormwater runoff to Birch Lake. VLAWMO will know in December if they are awarded grant funding.

- **25 by 25 town hall meeting**

Julie Drennen with Conservation Minnesota announced a recent Governor initiative to improve water quality 25% by 2025. As part of this initiative, Governor Dayton will host a series of Town Hall meetings throughout the state this summer and fall to gather feedback from Minnesota residents. The closest Town Hall meeting will be held in Stillwater on October 5th. Conservation Minnesota partnered with the Cities of White Bear Lake and Mahtomedi to host their own meeting for White Bear Lake area residents on September 21st at WBL City Hall. An open house will start at 6:30pm, with the main program from 7pm to 8:30pm. The White Bear Lake Mayor and Mahtomedi Mayor will be giving opening remarks, followed by presentations on water quality goals and projects by Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization and Rice Creek Watershed District. Following the presentations, there will be an opportunity for participants to engage in water quality concerns.

- **County Road 12 open house**

The Washington County Highway Department is holding an open house on Tuesday September 12th from 4-6pm at Mahtomedi High School. The open house is an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on various design options and features for the County Road 12 project between Ideal Avenue and Jamaca Avenue. The priority focus is on a proposed walking and biking trail as part of this project. Any commission members interested in trail improvements in this area are encouraged to attend.

• **Commission Member Updates**

Commissioner Schroeder reported that the City of Newport installed a GreenStep City road sign.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2017 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Sinnott moved, seconded by Commissioner Pariseau, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. Motion carried, vote 6/0.