

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: August 19, 2020	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeber (Chair), Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Chris Greene	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the agenda presented.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Absent
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye

Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) June 17, 2020 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the June 17, 2020 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting as presented.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Absent
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye

Motion carried.

b) July 15, 2020 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the July 15, 2020 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2020 meeting

as presented.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Absent
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye

Motion carried.

Commission member left the meeting

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Work plan high priority goals

Taillon reported that staff met to discuss recycling containers in the downtown area. Parks staff recommends keeping all trash containers and adding recycling containers next to each one. Parks staff prefers to purchase the same decorative metal container as the existing trash container, but will look at labeling and opening options. Taillon will provide updates as the project moves forward.

Commission members discussed future newsletter articles. Chair Schroeher stated that he would like to see more pollinator gardens included on the interactive map and directed staff to include information about the map in the fall newsletter. Commissioner Bolstad would also like to have information about pollinator garden resources included in the newsletter. Commission members discussed including an article about the City's battery powered lawn equipment in the spring newsletter.

b) 2020 budget

- Expo banners

Chair Schroeher researched feather flags and found a style that may work for the expo, at a cost of \$134 each. He will create a design and email the draft design to the commission members for review.

- Giveaway drawings

Taillon asked the commission members if there was interest in a giveaway drawing or subsidizing a Home Energy Squad visit as part of the 2020 Inter City Challenge. Commission members discussed subsidizing \$20 off of Home Energy Squad visits for a total of \$140 in 2020. Taillon will contact CEE to determine the logistics of a Home Energy Squad Visit subsidy.

c) Zero waste events – *Action item*

Commission members reviewed the draft zero waste policy and discussed waiting to vote on the policy until the full commission is present. Taillon will add the zero-waste events policy to the September agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2021 Work plan

Commission members reviewed the 2020 goals list and discussed possible high priority goals for 2021, including a plastic bag ordinance, solar on City buildings, promoting the high quality of drinking water, and enforcement of water conservation and illicit discharge ordinances. Commissioner Greenleaf stated that

she will review past reports for project ideas

Chair Schroeher mentioned that the commission members could consider inviting a representative from Wildlife Forever in White Bear Lake to speak at a future meeting.

7. DISCUSSION

a) Staff updates

- Commissioner re-appointments

Taillon reported that Chair Schroeher and Commissioner Greene's terms have been extended through June 2023.

- Mayor's water challenge

Taillon stated that the City of White Bear Lake is currently in 2nd place in the National Mayor's Water Challenge in our population category. She asked commission members to take the water pledge and to ask friends and family to do the same. Commission members asked staff to email a link to the Mayor's Water Challenge pledge.

- Matoska park shoreline armoring

Taillon mentioned that the City plans to riprap approximately 180 feet of Matoska Park dog beach shoreline late fall or early next spring to stop erosion due to high water and foot traffic. A shoreline restoration contractor was consulted early on to determine if the site is appropriate for a native plant buffer. Because of the high amount of foot traffic along the shoreline, natural vegetation was not recommended.

- Goose Lake

Taillon provided an update on the Goose Lake Adaptive Management Plan process. As a first step VLAWMO and City staff plan to present the plan to City Council for their feedback. Taillon will provide updates as the plan develops.

d) Commission member updates

- Environmental commission roles

Chair Schroeher provided a summary of Environmental Commission roles from Red Wing, Wayzata, New Brighton, Maplewood, Mahtomedi, and Bloomington. He recommends that the commission members review the duties and responsibilities and consider whether or not to expand their duties. The commission members directed staff to include EAC roles/duties to the 2021 draft work plan goals list.

e) Do-outs

New do-out items for August 19, 2020 include:

- Chair Schroeher to design the expo flag and determine pricing
- Commissioner Greenleaf to review reports for a list of future projects.
- Commission members to review roles of other environmental commissions
- Staff to add information in newsletter about pollinator garden resources and a pollinator map
- Staff to contact CEE about subsidizing the home energy squad fee.
- Staff to send mayor's water challenge link to commissioners
- Staff to add EAC roles to 2021 work plan goals
- Staff to feature City's battery powered lawn equipment in the spring newsletter

- Staff to add zero waste policy to the September agenda

f) September agenda

Include zero waste policy and 2021 work plan on the September agenda. The next meeting will be held via WebEx on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 6:30pm.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye

Greene: Absent

Greenleaf: Aye

Johnston: Aye

Schroeder: Aye

Winkler: Absent

Motion carried.