

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

Date: September 16, 2020	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeher (Chair), Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	None	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Bolstad added student delegate to 7b) Commission member updates. Taillon added knotweed to item 7a) Staff updates. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Chair Schroeher, to approve the agenda as amended.

#### Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye

Greene: Aye

Greenleaf: Aye

Johnston: Aye

Schroeher: Aye

Winkler: Aye

#### Motion carried.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a) August 19, 2020 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the August 19, 2020 draft minutes and had the following change: Commissioner Winkler stated that he was in attendance to approve the agenda and meeting minutes before leaving the meeting because of computer issues. Taillon noted that she will add the roll call vote to the minutes. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2020 meeting as amended.

#### Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye

Greene: Aye

Greenleaf: Aye

Johnston: Aye

Schroeher: Aye

Winkler: Aye

#### Motion carried.

**4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS**

None

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a) Work plan high priority goals

Commission members discussed the downtown area recycling containers and limiting the types of items recycled to cans and bottles to reduce contamination. Commission member Johnston volunteered to visit each trash and recycling container in the downtown area and report on the types of recycling in the containers, and note if trash is found in the recycling. He will report his findings at the October meeting. Taillon will contact Public Works to inquire when the trash and recycling are picked up, and let Commissioner Johnston know so he can visit the site the day before pickup.

Commission members asked staff to set up a joint meeting with the Parks Commission to discuss 2021 priorities and possible joint pollinator planting projects. Taillon will schedule the joint meeting.

b) 2020 budget

- Expo banners

Chair Schroeher reported that the feather flag design is complete and ready to order. Commission members discussed pricing and decided to order two banners in 2020 and two in 2021 to keep within budget. The remaining 2020 budget could be used to subsidize energy audits or purchase plants for a pollinator project. Staff will order two flags and research home energy squad subsidies and report back at the October meeting.

c) Zero waste events – *Action item*

Taillon presented a draft zero waste event policy for discussion. The draft policy requires that City-sponsored events be zero waste, including the volunteer appreciation dinner, employee appreciation lunch, and City sponsored meetings. The policy also includes language for staff to develop zero waste references and resources for events within the City, such as Marketfest and other large gatherings. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to support the zero-waste events policy as written and for staff to present the policy to City Council for their consideration.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye

Greene: Aye

Greenleaf: Aye

Johnston: Aye

Schroeher: Aye

Winkler: Aye

Motion carried.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

a) 2021 Work plan

Commission members discussed 2021 work plan priorities. Commissioner Greenleaf asked if the County is moving forward with their curbside organics plan. Taillon will contact the County to inquire about the program, and report back at the October meeting. Commissioner Greenleaf mentioned that the Natural Steps report would be a good resource for project ideas. She will email the Natural Steps report to commission members for review prior to the October meeting.

## 7. DISCUSSION

### a) Staff updates

#### - 2021 Street projects

Taillon provide an update on the 2021 street projects. The 2021 mill and overlay projects most likely will include the Matoska boat trailer parking lot and Lakewood Park parking lots. Staff visited the sites earlier this summer to look for opportunities to install raingardens to treat runoff from the parking lots.

Raingardens are most likely not feasible at the Matoska site due to the close proximity to the lake and high groundwater. Raingarden opportunities may be more feasible at Lakewood Park.

#### - Knotweed

Taillon reported that invasive knotweed was discovered surrounding the foot path from Fair Oaks Drive that leads to Willow Marsh Park. Ramsey County was notified, and they plan to begin treatment within the next two weeks to control the infestation.

### b) Commission member updates

#### - Student delegates

Commissioner Bolstad reported that two high school students are interested in joining the commission as student members. Commissioner Greene and Commissioner Greenleaf mentioned that they would like both students to be appointed to the commission if they are residents of White Bear Lake. Commission members discussed if the student delegates would be allowed to vote, and agreed that both should be voting members. Taillon will ask the Mayor about appointing two student delegates and Commissioner Bolstad will direct the students to fill out an application.

### c) Do-outs

New do-out items for September 16, 2020 include:

- Commissioner Johnston to investigate the types of recycling found in downtown trash and recycling containers
- Staff to ask Public Works when trash and recycling are picked up in the Downtown area, then email Commissioner Johnston.
- Staff to contact Parks Commission staff liaison to set up a joint meeting to talk about 2021 priorities, potential partnerships, pollinator plantings
- Staff to order 2 banners from the EAC budget
- Staff to research subsidizing home energy squad visits
- Staff to forward Zero Waste policy to Council for their consideration
- Staff to get an update on curbside organics from Ramsey County
- Commissioner Greenleaf to email Natural Step Framework
- Commission members to review Natural Steps reports prior to October meeting
- Staff to ask about appointing two student delegates

### d) October agenda

Include officer elections, update on curbside organics collection, update on zero waste policy, 2021 work plan, and roles of environmental commissions on the October agenda. The next meeting will be held via WebEx on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:30pm.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye

Greene: Aye

Greenleaf: Aye

Johnston: Aye

Schroeder: Aye

Winkler: Aye

Motion carried.