

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

Date: March 17, 2021	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeber (Chair)	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Robert Winkler, Valeria Diaz, Sage Durdle	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a) February 17, 2021 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the February 17, 2021 draft minutes and had the following changes: visitors and presentations, third line, add 'in the U.S.' after 'up to 200,000 deaths per year'; item 7b, Commissioner updates, first paragraph, add that Chair Schroeber presented the Zero Waste Policy; and items 5a and 7d capitalize the word 'March'. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting as amended.

#### Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

#### 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

#### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### a) 2021 budget

Taillon stated that the feather flags will be ordered soon, leaving approximately \$200 left in the budget for 2021. Commission members discussed ordering a rain barrel to give away at the Expo. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to spend up to \$100 from the budget to purchase a rain barrel for the 2021 Environmental Resource Expo.

##### Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye

Greene: Aye

Greenleaf: Aye

Johnston: Aye

Schroeher: Aye

Winkler: Absent

Diaz: Absent

Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.

##### b) 2021 Work Plan

###### - Downtown area recycling

Taillon stated that she is still waiting to hear back from Ramsey County on whether or not they approve of the recycling labeling on the combined trash/recycling bin design.

###### - Plastic bag ban

Commissioner Greenleaf stated that she reached out to the Minneapolis Environmental Commission and asked for advice on the steps to take to enact a bag ban. She found a presentation that Minneapolis had done for community engagement. The engagement included reaching out to business advisory groups, engaging the Environmental Commission, and a residential survey. The Commission members discussed possible first steps such as forming a task force or going to City Council. The Commission members decided to first talk with the City Manager to determine next steps. Taillon will reach out to the City Manager and report back at the April meeting. Commissioner Johnston stated that a first step should be to draft a clear statement of need. Commissioner Greene stated that the commission needs to decide if the ban would apply to just plastic, or both paper and plastic. The statement should also include statistics that will convince people that the ban is needed. Chair Schroeher mentioned that he spoke with Ramsey County, and they do not get involved in bag bans. They also mentioned that they don't know of any other City in Ramsey County that has enacted a ban. Commissioner Greenleaf and Commissioner Bolstad volunteered to create a bag ban statement of need for review and discussion at the April meeting.

##### c) 2021 Expo exhibitors

Taillon stated that the Marketfest coordinator invited the EAC to hold the Environmental Resource Expo on the last Marketfest of the year, which will be on Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> this year. Commission members instructed Taillon to accept the invitation for August 5<sup>th</sup>. Commission member reviewed the 2020 Expo list and made the following changes:

- Commissioner Greenleaf will request 1 box of Horticulture magazines.
- Remove the Honor Society from the volunteer list.
- Remove Republic Services from the list
- Chair Schroeher and Commissioner Bolstad volunteered to bring electric lawn equipment to display.

- Chair Schroeher volunteered to invite Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District to exhibit at the Expo.

Commission members agreed to start inviting the exhibitors in April. Taillon will check to see if the Armory chairs will be available.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Spring newsletter

Taillon noted that articles for the spring newsletter are due by the end of March. Articles on recycling contamination and the 'Spotlight on Sustainability' article showcasing St. John in the Wilderness pollinator garden will be included. Commission members discussed other articles to include in the newsletter, such as the pollinator pathways map, Adopt-a-Drain, toilet rebate, and food scraps recycling.

## 7. DISCUSSION

### a) Staff updates

- EAC website description

Taillon noted the EAC description has been updated on the City's website.

- Air sensors

Taillon stated that she looked into adding the air quality sensors to City Hall, but will need to know how much band width it will require before a decision can be made. Commissioner Bolstad will provide an answer to staff.

- East Goose Lake web hub

Taillon mentioned that the East Goose Lake web hub is now live. The web hub provides information on shallow lakes, the Adaptive Lake Management process, past projects, and FAQs. Taillon will email a link to the web hub.

### b) Commission member updates

Chair Schroeher announced that he is now a member of the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) representing White Bear Lake. The CAC meets 6 to 8 times per year plus public events.

Commissioner Bolstad noted that she was happy to see Commissioner Johnston's letter in the White Bear Press.

Chair Schroeher congratulated Commissioner Winkler for the nice article about his volunteer work on the VLAWMO website.

### c) Do-outs

New do-out items for March 17, 2021 include:

- Commissioner's Greenleaf and Bolstad to create a bag ban statement of need.
- Staff to include pollinator pathways, Adopt-a-Drain, toilet rebate, and organics recycling in the spring newsletter.
- Staff to purchase RAM rain barrel for the Environmental Resource Expo.
- Staff to check if Armory chairs are available for the Expo

### d) April agenda

Include plastic bag ban, Environmental Resource Expo, and downtown area recycling on the April agenda.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye

Greene: Aye

Greenleaf: Aye

Johnston: Aye

Schroeder: Aye

Winkler: Absent

Diaz: Absent

Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.