

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: June 16, 2021	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroehner (Chair); Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Chris Greene, Rick Johnston, 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 6:44pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and added token giveaways to item 7b. Commission member updates. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) May 19, 2021 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the May 19, 2021 draft minutes and no changes. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2021 budget

Taillon stated that she ordered two more feather flags for the Environmental Resources Expo, which leaves \$168.98 remaining in the budget for 2021. Commission members discussed other potential purchases for 2021 including a rain barrel to give away at the Expo and additional Expo tents. Taillon will purchase a rain barrel, and then purchase an additional tent if the budget allows.

b) 2021 Work Plan

- Plastic bag ban

Commissioner members reviewed the draft statement of need and concluded that there should be additional information as to why the bag ban is needed. Taillon noted that the Ramsey County solid waste master plan may provide information that can be included in the statement of need. She will email a link of the County's plan to Commissioner Greenleaf. Commissioner Bolstad mentioned that take-out food bags should be added to the list of exceptions. Commission members also discussed possible alternative names to a bag ban, such as a 'Bring Your Own Bag' initiative. Commissioner Greenleaf stated that she will incorporate the commissioner's comments and bring back the revised draft statement of need for review at the July meeting.

- Downtown area recycling

Taillon stated that there is nothing new to report this month. She is waiting for Ramsey County to contact her regarding a grant application.

c) 2021 Expo

Commission members discussed which exhibitors have responded to their invitation. So far, there are seven exhibitors who stated that they plan to attend, including 3 vehicles from the electric vehicle owners club. Commission members discussed ideas on how to give away the seed packets, including games or punch cards showing that participants visited a certain number of other exhibit tables. Chair Schroeher volunteered to create a 'guess the number of plastic bags a family of 4 uses peryear' game. Taillon offered to bring plant signs that describe each species of plant seeds being given away. Chair Schroeher and Commissioner Bolstad offered to bring an electric mower and weed whip to display at the Expo.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

a) Staff updates

- East Goose ALM community survey results

Taillon announced that a report on the East Goose Lake community survey results is posted on the East Goose Adaptive Lake Management web hub. The results will also be presented at an upcoming community meeting.

- East Goose ALM community meeting – August 3, 2021

Taillon noted that the East Goose ALM team scheduled a community meeting on August 3rd at 6:30pm in the Public Safety Training Room. There will be a presentation about shallow lake management and the results of the public community engagement, followed by a community input session. The EAC is invited to attend.

b) Commission member updates

Commissioner Greenleaf reported that she gave a neighbor two tokens for cleaning their lawn clippings off the street. She will update the token spreadsheet.

Commissioner Bolstad reported that there are discussions about the Matoska Park riprap project on a Matoska dog beach Facebook page.

Chair Schroeher noted Polar Chev did a nice job with their stormwater treatment project, and also mentioned that he observed Public Works trucks left running while unattended on a Lake Ave resurfacing project. He stated that Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District is holding their annual Waterfest event at Lake Phalen over multiple days this year, from June 19 through June 27. He will be volunteering at the event on Saturday and Sunday.

c) Do-outs

New do-out items for June 16, 2021 include:

- Commission members to review the draft bag ban Statement of Need and provide comments
- Staff to forward the Ramsey County solid waste plan to Commissioner Greenleaf
- Commissioner Greenleaf to update token spreadsheet
- Chair Schroeher to create a plastic bag display for the Environmental Expo
- Chair Schroeher and Commissioner Bolstad to bring electric lawn equipment to Expo
- Staff to bring native plant signs to Expo

d) July agenda

Include the Bring Your Own Bag initiative and Environmental Resource Expo on the July agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye

Greene: Absent

Greenleaf: Aye

Johnston: Absent

Schroeher: Aye

Winkler: Aye

Diaz: Absent

Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.