

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: September 15, 2021	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		
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	Carrie Schesel	
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 and had the following changes: Chair Schroeher added Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District buckthorn removal day discussion and Commissioner Bolstad added electronic commission packets under 7b, commission member updates. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) July 21, 2021 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the July 21, 2021 draft minutes and had the following change: fix the spelling error on page 2, second to last line from the bottom, from 'curt' to 'cut'. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021 meeting as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Carrie Schesel introduced herself and stated that she recently moved to White Bear Lake. She is attending the meeting to learn more about the Environmental Advisory Commission.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2021 budget

Staff noted that there is \$168.98 remaining in the 2021 budget. Commission members discussed spending the remaining amount yet this year on possibly native plant seeds or a rain barrel. Staff noted that rain barrels won't be available until next spring. Commissioner Johnston expressed interest in purchase seeds with the remaining budget. Commission members asked staff to include this item on the October agenda for further discussion.

b) 2021 Environmental Resources Expo recap

The commission members recapped the Environmental Resources Expo, noting that the electric cars and Tamarack Nature Center were popular attractions. The main issues were that the Master Gardeners did not attend, and there weren't as many interactive displays as years past. The Commissioner Greene's electric yard equipment was not well attended, but better signage next year may help attract more visitors. Commissioner Bolstad gave Cup and Cone tokens to the Boy Scouts who volunteered to help with set up and take down the Expo tents.

c) 2021 Work plan

- Bring Your Own Bag initiative

Commissioner Greenleaf presented her draft presentation slides for the commission members to review and provide comments. Commission members had the following comments and questions:

- Add paper bags to the 'Intent' slide.
- Add Seattle statistics.
- For the City of Minneapolis and Duluth slides, add language as to when the ordinances were approved.
- Determine how many resources are saved by this initiative.
- What is the effectiveness of the results? Plasticbaglaws.org may have information on effectiveness.

Commissioner Greenleaf will revise the slides and email the revised draft in two weeks for further staff and commission member review. Commission members asked staff to clear the October agenda except for the presentation discussion.

- Downtown area recycling

Staff stated that there is nothing new to report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

a) Staff updates

- Student delegates

Staff stated that the student delegates were contacted to ask if they are still interested in serving on the commission. One of the emails was disabled, and the other did not respond. Commission members discussed next steps and decided to remove the students from the roster.

- Raingarden maintenance workshop

Staff announced that Rice Creek Watershed District and the City are partnering to conduct a raingarden maintenance workshop on September 8, 2021 for participants in the street renovation raingarden program.

- Priebe Lake outlet replacement

Staff noted that Rice Creek Watershed District was in attendance at the August 24th City Council meeting to present on the upcoming Priebe Lake Outlet structure repair project that is planned for this coming winter. Staff will email the commission members a memorandum from Rice Creek Watershed District that provides further details on the project.

- Curbside food scraps pickup

Staff announced that curbside food scraps recycling will begin in late 2022 into 2023 for all residents in Ramsey and Washington Counties.

b) Commission member updates

- RCWD CAC raingarden tour

Commissioner Winkler stated that he attended the Rice Creek Watershed District Citizen Advisory Commission raingarden tour where they learned about the City's street renovation raingarden program and toured raingardens that were constructed as part of this program in the old downtown neighborhood.

- RWMWD buckthorn removal day

Chair Schroeder mentioned that he could ask the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District if they

would be interested in teaming up with the Environmental Advisory Commission to remove buckthorn on YMCA and City Park property at Orchard Avenue and White Bear Avenue. Chair Schroeher offered to organize a potential buckthorn removal event with RWMWD and YMCA, and will contact the YMCA this winter.

- Electronic packets

Commissioner Bolstad reminded the commission members to start bringing laptops to future meetings instead of printing hard copies of the packet each month. Staff will send a reminder to bring a laptop to the October meeting.

Commissioner Johnston asked staff to provide an update on the testing at County Road E and Bellaire at the October meeting. Commission members also discussed the No Mow May initiative and asked staff to add this to the 2022 draft work plan.

c) Do-outs

New do-out items for September 15 include:

- Commissioners to revise BYOB PowerPoint by September 29, 2021
- Staff to contact Ellen to get an update from the MPCA on the status of testing at County E and Bellaire
- Staff to provide draft BYOB PowerPoint for further staff review
- Staff to ask Ellen about Council schedule for presentation
- Staff to add 'No Mow May' to 2022 draft work plan for discussion
- Staff to email Priebe Lake memo to commission members
- Commission members and staff to bring laptop to all future meetings
- Staff to send a reminder email to bring laptops to the October meeting
- Chair Schroeher to organize a potential buckthorn removal event with RWMWD and YMCA at the YMCA and Lakewood Hills Park.

d) October agenda

Keep agenda open for the Bring Your Own Bag initiative: finalize presentation and discuss additional talking points for questions.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm. Motion carried, vote 6/0.