

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

|                            |   |                         |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Date: October 20, 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  | 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 and had no changes. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a) September 15, 2021 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the September 15, 2021 draft minutes and had no changes.

Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

### 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### a) 2021 work plan

##### - Bring Your Own Bag Initiative

Commission members discussed timing of the Council presentation and whether to continue with the 'bring your own bag' initiative or include it as part of a general update about EAC goals and accomplishments. Chair Schroeher suggested that the EAC present after the first of the year so they can introduce themselves to the new Mayor. After further discussion, the commission members agreed to present general EAC goals and accomplishments at a City Council meeting in early 2022. Commission members requested the EAC accomplishments presentation from the 2019 Volunteer Recognition Dinner for ideas. Taillon will email the 2019 presentation to the commission members.

Commission members asked staff to include the Council presentation on the 2022 draft work plan and to include the draft work plan on the November agenda. Chair Schroeher asked commission members to prepare for next month's work plan discussion. He learned from attending a recent GreenStep Cities workshop on how environmental commission can advance sustainability that the purpose of Sustainability Commissions is to change behavior. As an example, the Bloomington sustainability commission offers a rebate on energy audits to help meet their goal of 75% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. He noted that the book "Fostering Sustainable Behavior" by Doug McKenzie-Mohr is a good resource.

Commission members also discussed the 2021 budget and potentially purchasing reusable bags to give away at the 2022 Environmental Resources Expo. Commissioner Greenleaf mentioned that the WBL police were handing out reusable bags at a Night to Unite Event this summer, and the commission could consider purchasing the same reusable bags for the Expo. Taillon will ask the police department where they purchased the bags.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**7. DISCUSSION**

a) Staff updates

- VLAWMO Lake Care Weekend

Taillon mentioned that VLAWMO scheduled a Lake Care Weekend on October 23-24. This on-your-own event ask residents to adopt a drain and commit to cleaning the drain on this weekend. Staff posted Lake Care Weekend announcement on the City's Facebook page.

- County E and Bellaire Update

Taillon stated there is nothing new to report at this time, and will continue to reach out to the MPCA for an update.

b) Commission member updates

Chair Schroeher stated that he recently volunteered to help clean raingardens through Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District, and that he is surprised at how much sediment gets into the raingardens. Chair Schroeher also mentioned that the organics dumpster lid has not yet been fixed. Taillon noted that the County is aware of this issue, but will send a follow-up email to let them know that the lid still broken.

c) Do-outs

New do-out items for October 20, 2021 include:

- Staff to provide an update from the MPCA on the status of testing at County E and Bellaire
- Staff to reconnect with County re: broken organics dumpster lid
- Staff to email 2019 EAC accomplishments presentation
- Staff to add EAC presentation to Council on 2022 draft work plan
- Commission members to prepare for next month's 2022 work plan discussion
- Staff to ask Police Department about their reusable bags

d) November agenda

Include officer elections, 2022 work plan, and 2021 budget to the November agenda.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Chair Schroeher to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. Motion carried, vote 6/0.