

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: January 19, 2022	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeder (Chair)	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Robert Winkler	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	Lori Olinger, Judy Lissick, and Joe Crowe, Northeast Metro Climate Action (NEMCA)	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Member Johnston moved, seconded by member Bolstad, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) December 15, 2021 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the December 15, 2021 draft minutes and had no changes: Member Bolstad moved, seconded by member Greenleaf, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Lori Olinger, Judy Lissick, and Joe Crowe from Northeast Metro Climate Action (NEMCA) were in attendance to to see if there might be ways for NEMCA and the Environmental Advisory Commission to collaborate.

a) Introduction of NEMCA

Lori, Judy, and Joe introduced themselves and NEMCA. NEMCA is a local organization with a focus on broadening awareness of climate change and its implications. Initiatives focus on education through outreach with elected officials, letters to the editor, and others.

b) Introduction of Environmental Advisory Commission

The Environmental Advisory Commission members introduced themselves and provided background on their personal and professional environmental related experience.

c) Introduction of Foreverware

Judy introduced Foreverware as reusable to go containers that restaurants would purchase for customers to use as take out containers. The customers would be charged a five-dollar deposit which would be refunded when the containers were returned to the restaurant. Foreverware is now expanding from Minneapolis into other areas. Lori would like to see restaurants in White Bear Lake using this products and will start reaching out to local restaurants in the next couple of weeks.

d) Possible collaborations / NEMCA support

Lori asked the commission members for suggestions on local businesses to contact that may have an

interest in Foreverware. Members stated that Washington Square restaurant owners who have been part of the Climate Smart Municipalities Steering Committee may have an interested in trying Foreverware and suggested contacting them first.

Judy and Lori asked if the Environmental Advisory Commission has ideas to focus on for sponsorship in the legislative sessions. Judy noted that the Minnesota Precinct Caucus' are February 1st and NEMCA has selected five resolutions regarding climate change to bring to the caucuses. Judy will email more information to the commission members.

Judy and Lori thanked the commission members and stated that they look forward to possible collaborations and to provide support to the Environmental Advisory Commission.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2022 budget

Taillon noted that she purchased native plant seeds for the Expo with the remaining 2021 Environmental Advisory Commission budget, and that the 2022 budget is \$500.

b) 2022 draft work plan

Members provided their top five goals from the list of topics from the 2022 draft work plan list. The top three topics with the highest votes were: reduce recycling contamination workshop, pollinator plantings, and rebates for water efficient appliances. Chair Schroeber offered to do the planning for the 'reduce recycling contamination' workshop. Member Johnston noted that some of the items did not seem to have clear goals and suggested taking time to come up with more specific goals. He suggested looking at GreenStep City goals and tasks that the City has not accomplished yet that are also on the 2022 draft work plan list. Member Johnston volunteered to meet with Taillon to review the GreenStep Cities tasks that have not been completed by the City. Chair Schroeber stated that member Winkler should add his top 5 goals to the spreadsheet and then discuss the top two to four ranked items on the list at the February meeting. Taillon will ask member Winkler to add his top 5 priorities to the spreadsheet prior to the February meeting.

Member Greenleaf presented the PowerPoint slides she created for the upcoming presentation to Council and asked for feedback. Changes to the presentation were discussed and included adding the pollinator planting interactive map and past projects, adding a slide for electric equipment, and updating the member terms. Taillon stated that she can provide updated photos of the food recycling dumpster enclosure at Public Works, a photo of the electric lawn equipment Expo display, and large format photo of the Environmental Advisory Commission Expo table. Chair Schroeber offered to give the presentation. Member Greenleaf stated that she will revise the PowerPoint slides within the next two weeks and email the revised presentation to all members for their review.

c) Officer elections

Member Bolstad nominated member Johnston as vice chair, and member Johnston accepted the nomination. Member Bolstad moved, seconded by member Greenleaf, to nominate member Johnston as vice chair of the Environmental Advisory Commission for 2022. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Environmental Resources Expo

Tabled until the February meeting

7. DISCUSSION

a) Staff updates

Tabled until the February meeting

b) Commission member updates

No updates

c) Do-outs

New do-out items for January 19, 2022 include:

- All commission members to consider supporting NEMCA environmental resolutions in the upcoming precinct caucus.
- Member Johnston to schedule a meeting with Taillon to review unfinished GreenStep Cities Best Practices.
- Taillon to email 2022 draft goals spreadsheet and ask member Winkler to add his top 5 priorities to the spreadsheet.
- Chair Schroeher offered to lead the 'reduce recycling contamination workshop' work plan item.
- Member Greenleaf to revise the presentation slides by February 2nd and email to all members for review.
- Taillon to email updated photos to member Greenleaf for inclusion in the presentation slides.

d) February agenda

Include Prairie City under visitors and presentations. Add Environmental Resources Expo and 2022 draft work plan discussion under unfinished business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Member Greenleaf moved, seconded by member Greene to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. Motion carried, vote 5/0.