



**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022  
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Chair Gary Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Frye, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeher (Chair)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Luxford

**STAFF PRESENT:** Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

**VISITORS PRESENT:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Taillon added 'Good Neighbor Guide' and 'Recycling & Energy Center Tour' to item 7B. Staff Updates.

It was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Bolstad**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried 6:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on August 17, 2022

The commission members reviewed the August 17, 2022 meeting minutes and had the following change: Item 5A., third sentence, change 'Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District' to 'Ramsey County Recycling Ambassadors'.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Greene**, to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 6:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Draft presentation to Council

The Commission members discussed content to include in the presentation to Council at the joint work session. They will be including future initiative in the presentation to get

feedback from the Mayor and Council. Taillon will email a draft of the future slides that were discussed at the May meeting.

**B. Draft Work Plan**

Commission members reviewed the GreenStep Cities Best Practices and discussed referencing the best practice action numbers to the draft work plan priority items in the Google document. Commission members asked Taillon to email the GreenStep Cities Best Practices actions spreadsheet and link to the Google Doc.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Volunteer recognition dinner presentation**

Taillon noted that the volunteer recognition dinner will be at Boatworks on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup>. Staff liaisons will present on past accomplishments for each commission. Taillon asked commission members to review the presentation from 2019 and provide feedback on changes to the presentation. Commission members asked Taillon to revise the member list on slide 1, revise the date and title on slide 2 for the state wide commission workshop, update the Expo exhibitor list and photos, remove climate smart steering committee slide, and add slides for the pollinator map, electric lawn equipment promotion, and zero waste policy. Taillon stated that the event will be Zero Waste and that compostable cups, plates, and silverware will be purchased for the event.

**7. DISCUSSION**

**A. Downtown tree replacement**

The commission members discussed tree replacement in the downtown area. Member Bolstad is asking the commission for support to make a formal request to City Council to budget for tree replacements downtown. Members will include this as a discussion item in the upcoming joint work session.

*Commission member left at 8:22pm.*

**B. Staff updates**

- Rotary Nature Preserve

Taillon stated that Rotary Club volunteers planted the phase 1 restoration area on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the phase 1 area will be seeded with native prairie seed later in October.

- WBL raingarden tour September 22nd

Taillon noted that VLAWMO RCWD and RWMWD have partnered to offer a 3-part raingarden tour. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the tour will be held in White Bear Lake. The tour will start at the raingardens at 10<sup>th</sup> and Morehead at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.

- VLAWMO good neighbor guide

Taillon passed around the Good Neighbor Guide that VLAWMO recently completed. The guide answers questions about watershed health and provides guidance for

landowners to reduce pollutants and conserve water. The guide is available on VLAWMO's website, and a few hard copies are at City Hall.

- Recycling & Energy Center tour

Taillon stated that she attended a tour of the Recycling and Energy Center on September 20<sup>th</sup> as part of the quarterly Ramsey County Recycling Coordinators meeting. She showed photos of the tipping floor where all trash in Ramsey and Washington Counties is delivered, and the new building addition for the curbside food scraps program that is planned to be in service by late 2023 or early 2024. Trash delivered to this facility is shredded and trucked to an Xcel Energy plant where it is burned to produce electricity. When the food scraps program is in place, the bags of food scraps will be sorted out of the trash and brought to a composting facility.

C. Commission member updates

Chair Schroeher mentioned that he attended the County Road E workshop on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the workshop was to gather input from the public on what to do with the corridor. There will be additional workshops divided by City. The White Bear Lake workshop will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

D. Do-outs

New do-out items for September 21, 2022 include:

- Taillon to email 'future project' presentation slides to members
- Taillon to email GreenStep Cities (GSC) spreadsheet and link to Google doc
- Commission members to add GSC numbers to Google doc.
- Taillon to purchase compostable products for volunteer recognition dinner

E. October agenda

The commission members asked Taillon to include the draft work plan and presentation to Council on the October agenda.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Bolstad** to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0