



**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022  
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Chair Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Johnston**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 7:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on September 21, 2022

The commission members reviewed the September 21, 2022 meeting minutes and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Bolstad**, to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 7:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Joint work session presentation

The commission members discussed topics to include in the joint work session presentation. Member Luxford stated that it would be worthwhile to get feedback on Council's interests. Member Bolstad suggested a quick introduction of what the commission has completed, and then share future opportunities that the commission

has considered and ask for feedback. The commission members discussed topics for discussion including downtown trees and supporting a state initiative for a single use bag fee. Member Frye mentioned that in his experience once enough Cities initiate a change then the state and Federal follow suit. He said to consider letting the people vote on a bag fee. Member Bolstad will to put together a couple of slides regarding a downtown tree project. Taillon will update the presentation slide template and email to Chair Schroeder.

#### B. 2023 Work Plan

The commission members discussed the 2023 work plan priority goals. Member Greenleaf suggested that a consensus be reached on the priorities and to identify people to take the lead on each priority and report back each month. She said that in the past there were subcommittees to work on specific projects. The commission members discussed picking the top 5 priorities for the 2023 work plan. Taillon will email the priority spreadsheet to Member Frye for him to add his top 5 priority votes for discussion at the November meeting.

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Environmental Resources Expo exhibitor request

Taillon stated that a representative from a local prairie restoration company contacted her with an interest in exhibiting at the 2023 Environmental Resources Expo. She told the representative that the commission generally invites non-profits and government agencies to exhibit at the Expo, but that she would bring the request to the next EAC meeting for input. The commission members discussed inviting for-profit businesses to the Expo and they want to continue to provide educational resources and not promote businesses. Member Luxford suggested that if a business expresses an interest in exhibiting at the Expo, that they could request a booth space at Marketfest. Taillon will contact the company to let them know of the commission member's decision.

#### B. Student members

Taillon stated that the advisor of the WBLAHS Environmental Club recently contacted the City because some of the student members expressed interest in the Environmental Advisory Commission. She is wondering if there is room on the commission for student members though the 2022/2023 school year. Member Greenleaf mentioned that several years ago they had a student member and it worked out well. Member Bolstad stated that there were two student members on the commission during the pandemic, but their attendance was sporadic. She suggested that if the commission decides to add a student member, expect there to be a commitment. Member Greene suggested that the commission members give the student an assignment and have them report back the next month. He also mentioned that two students could share the role. There was further discussion about the time commitment and whether the student member be a voting or non-voting member. Commissioner Bolstad suggested a commitment for the academic year. Member Luxford suggested extending the commitment beyond the academic year so the student can participate in the Environmental Resources Expo. All commission members agreed that the student member would be a non-voting member.

The commission members are supportive of having up to two non-voting student members with the expectation that there would be a commitment to attend the monthly meetings. Taillon stated that she will consult with the City Manager and Mayor about having student members be appointed to the Environmental Advisory Commission, and will contact the advisor of the WBLAHS Environmental Club with their decisions.

C. Officer Elections – Chair & Vice Chair

Commissioner Bolstad nominated Chair Schroeher for Chair and Member Johnston for Vice-Chair. It was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Bolstad**, to nominate Chair Schroeher to continue as the chair for 2023 and to nominate Member Johnston to continue as Vice-Chair for 2023.

Motion carried 7/0.

## 7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- Level 3 electric vehicle charging station

Taillon reported that a Level 3 charger was installed at one of the car dealers along Highway 61. She will email the name of the dealership to the commission members.

- Rotary Nature Preserve restoration project

Taillon provided an update on the restoration projects at Rotary Nature Preserve. Rotary Club members and Nick Voss from VLAWMO completed the phase 1 planting in September. Rotary Club recently submitted an application to the Greater WBL Community Foundation requesting a grant for the phase 2 wetland buffer planting.

B. Commission member updates

Commissioner Bolstad reported that she was in touch with Gary Johnson at the U of M who worked with students on the environmental reports that were presented to Council a few years ago. One group reported on stormwater management and tree canopy in downtown parking lots using Silva Cells or CU Structural Soil. Structural soil is less expensive than Silva Cells and consists of rock and soil. CU Structural Soil has been used at the Xcel Energy Center, Vikings Stadium, Nicollet Mall, and University Avenue.

Chair Schroeher reported that he and Taillon attended the VLAWMO raingarden tour with Nick Voss and toured some of the curb cut raingardens on Morehead Avenue, and helped to maintain one of the raingardens. Chair Schroeher also stated that he attended the County Road E meeting.

Chair Schroeher mentioned that someone came up to him and asked why the City has not reached Step 5 in the GreenStep Cities program. He also mentioned that he emailed a photo to Taillon that showed exposed florescent lights at the former Petrowash gas station on Bellaire and County Road E. Taillon stated that she will pass this concern on to the appropriate City staff.

C. Do-outs

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

- Member Bolstad to create a couple of slides regarding downtown trees
- Taillon to update presentation template and email to Chair Schroeher
- Taillon to email member Frye the work plan list
- Member Frye to add top 5 work plan priorities to list and email to members
- Taillon to respond to exhibitor request
- Taillon to ask Mayor about adding student members
- Taillon to email name of business that installed the level 3 charger to members
- Taillon to forward fluorescent light concern to appropriate staff

D. November agenda

Chair Schroeher requested that the 2023 work plan be finalized and approved at the November meeting. Members will discuss the revised draft presentation at the November meeting. Member Greenleaf asked Taillon to include a discussion of the topics of interest from the 2022 Water Resources Conference on the November agenda.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Greene** to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Motion carried, 7:0