



**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023  
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Chair Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sheryl Bolstad, Rick Johnston

**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 **Luxford** seconded by member **Greene**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on April 19, 2023.

The commission members reviewed the draft April 19, 2023 meeting minutes and had the following changes:

Item 5A, first sentence after the bullet points: change 'member' to 'members'.

Item 5A, third sentence after the bullet points: delete the phrase 'or employers from H.B. Fuller'.

It was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 5:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. 2023 work plan

Member Greenleaf thanked the commission members who attended the joint meeting with the Parks Commission to discuss possible partnership opportunities to remove invasives and restore native plant communities. Member Greene reported that there was positive feedback from the Parks Commission with interest in partnering. At the joint meeting, a Parks Commission member suggested that a member of the Environmental Advisory Commission get paired with a Parks Commission member to join them as they inspect their respective parks. This will provide an opportunity to identify areas of each park for invasive species removal and possible restoration, and to take photos of these areas. The goal this fall is to mark these potential locations on a map and create a restoration plan that will include project locations, timelines, and budgets.

The commission members discussed which Parks Commission Member to contact:

- Chair Schroeher will contact Member Belisle to visit Ebba Park, Hidden Hollow Park, and Lakeview Park; and Member G. Davis to visit West Park, Memorial Beach, and Lakewood Hills Park
- Member Greenleaf will contact Member A. Davis to visit Railroad Park, Stellmacher Park, and Ramaley Park
- Member Greene will contact Member Ganzlin to visit Spruce Park, Bossard Park, and Veterans Memorial Park
- Member Luxford will contact Member Biehn to visit Podvin Park and Jack Yost Park
- Member Frye will contact Member Cermak to visit Rotary Nature Preserve, McCarty Park, and Weyerhauser Park
- Member Bolstad and Member Johnston can contact Member Shepard to visit Lions Park and Matoska Park.

Chair Schroeher noted to contact your Parks Commission representative soon, and to email the other EAC members to find an alternate if you are not able to attend a site visit.

### B. Environmental Resources Expo

The commission members each provided an update on their exhibitor invitations. Member Greene stated that he invited one EV owner so far and plans to contact the car dealers. Taillon reported for Member Bolstad that Tamarack Nature Center and League of Women Voters will attend. Member Luxford reported that NE Metro Climate action will attend. Taillon reported that Pollinator Friendly Alliance will attend, and she is waiting to hear back from Vадnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, White Bear Lake Conservation District, and the AV shuttle. For the EAC table, Chair Schroeher would like to have a sign-up sheet for individuals interested in volunteering for buckthorn removal or other environmental events. He is also interested in displaying a QR code that would link to environmental pages on the City's website.

Taillon mentioned that a for-profit solar company contacted her with an interest in exhibiting at the Expo. Member Luxford thinks that a for-profit company might be a better fit as part of Marketfest. The other commission members agreed. Taillon will contact the solar company to encourage them to apply as a vendor at Marketfest.

Commission members discussed making a larger sign for the electric lawn equipment display. Member Greene volunteered to design a sign.

The commission members discussed other possible giveaway items instead of native seed packs, such as reusable bags. The commission members will research products for a giveaway and decide at the June meeting.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **7. DISCUSSION**

### **A. Staff updates**

- Rotary Nature Preserve phase 2 restoration and Birch Lake Elementary School field day

Taillon stated that the field day went well. Over the course of two half days, all students at Birch Lake Elementary rotated between four stations led by Rotary Club members and staff from VLAWMO and the City, including a nature hike, macroinvertebrate station, prairie planting, and weeding.

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MSA  
Taillon reported that Metropolitan Council is taking the lead on the metropolitan climate planning initiative and that all municipalities within this area will be included as partners in the plan.

### **B. Commission member updates**

- White Bear Lake Magazine pollinator article

Chair Schroeher noted that the EAC's pollinator pathways map article is published in the White Bear Lake Magazine. Taillon mentioned that a longer version of the article is posted on the magazines website at [whitebearlakemag.com](http://whitebearlakemag.com).

- Lake study project

Chair Schroeher reported that the U of M is looking for volunteers to assist with a lake study project for three lakes: Phalen, Owasso, and White Bear Lake. If interested, sign up at the link provided in the email sent to the commission members on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Member Greenleaf mentioned that she attended the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program presentation at the April 25<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Taillon presented on 2022 stormwater activities.

Chair Schroeder reported that he will give a presentation to a Rotary training group about EAC activities.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for May 17, 2023 include:

- Environmental Advisory Commission members to contact respective Parks Commission members to coordinate park site visits.
- Environmental Advisory Commission members to determine items for Expo giveaway by June EAC meeting.
- Member Greene to design electric lawn equipment sign.

D. June agenda

Commission members discussed the June agenda items. Member Greenleaf asked Taillon to add a discussion about No Mow May on the June agenda.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Frye** seconded by member **Greenleaf** to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0