



**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 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 6:36 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Frye

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

Motion carried 5:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

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

The commission members reviewed the draft July 19, 2023 meeting minutes and had the following changes: Item 5A third paragraph, change "Commission member left the meeting at 7:30pm" to "Member Luxford left the meeting at 7:00pm". Item 7C, second paragraph, first sentence, change 'her' to 'she' and delete 'Railroad Park'; third paragraph, third sentence, replace the word 'He' with 'Chair Schroeher'; fourth paragraph, second sentence, add 'at Bossard Park' after 'He stated that'.

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

Motion carried, 4:0. Member Luxford abstained.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Environmental Resources Expo

The commission members recapped the Environmental Resources Expo that was held on July 27<sup>th</sup>:

- The League of Women Voters and their wheel spinner game was popular.
- A few people stopped by the electric yard equipment display, but it was not heavily attended. Some thoughts to increase interest next year include adding more equipment, an interactive activity or giveaway, or possibly moving the yard equipment to the car area to have more of an 'electric avenue' display. Giving out candy was a good idea to bring people over to the exhibit.
- The electric car display was really good this year, with a wide variety of makes and models.
- The MPCA 'Get the lead Out' exhibitor was happy with the number of lead free tackle he gave away.
- The information on plastics at the Zero Waste exhibit was interesting.
- People had a lot of questions for the Master Gardeners.
- Member Greenleaf noted that Member Johnston's recycling game was 'spot on'. Member Johnston said that people would flip over the card but didn't take the time to read the information but the game did generate discussion. The kids knew more about recycling than the adults.
- Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador Program had 3 or 4 giveaways including pencils made out of shredded money.
- Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District said that they had more people stop by their table this year.
- There was no interest on the volunteer sign-up sheet. Chair Schroeher asked if the volunteer sign up could be announced in the newsletter and Member Luxford mentioned putting an article in the White Bear Press.
- There are enough seed packets left over for next year's game.
- Member Greenleaf suggested looking in the Eco Building at the fair for Expo ideas.

### B. Park visit reports

Each commission member circled areas on their respective Parks maps where there is potential for native plant restorations and/or invasive species removal. Once the remaining commission members that were not at the August meeting add their areas to the maps at the September meeting, Taillon will have the GIS staff person add this information to the maps in preparation for a joint meeting with the Parks Commission.

Taillon stated that she will connect with the Parks Commission staff liaison to set up a joint meeting in November or early next year.

Chair Schroeher suggested that he invite Metro Blooms to a future meeting to talk about their program on how to plant a native plant demonstration garden.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Budget

#### - EAC shirts

Taillon stated that the total remaining 2023 budget is \$163.40 after the purchase of a lawn equipment banner and native seed packets for the Expo. Commission members discussed purchasing embroidered shirts with the remaining 2023 budget. Taillon will ask staff if the commission members can place a partial order in 2023 and the remaining order in 2024 to utilize the remaining 2023 budget. Taillon stated that she will bring the apparel catalog to the September meeting so the commission members can choose a style of shirt.

## 7. DISCUSSION

### A. Urban and Community Forestry Grant Funding Programs

Chair Schroeher mentioned that Conservation Minnesota sent out an email about two Community Forestry Grants available from the DNR. He asked if the City could utilize these grants for Emerald Ash Borer projects. Taillon stated that she will talk with the City Engineer about applying for one or both grants to help cover the cost of Ash tree removal and replacement.

### B. Staff updates

#### - Fall newsletter

Taillon requested a list of environmental topics for the fall newsletter. Commission members agreed that recycling contamination education should be included. Chair Schroeher also suggested adding a request for volunteers to be included on a volunteer list for upcoming buckthorn removal projects.

Member Greenleaf mentioned that the City of Lake Elmo has buckthorn removal tools available for residents to use.

#### - Rotary Nature Preserve Phase 2 project

Taillon provided an update on the status of the phase 2 project. Parks staff completed the Amur maple removal in the phase 2 area, from the west edge of the trail to the wetland. Natural Shore Technologies treated the cleared area for weeds prior to seeding, then mulched and planted a narrow strip along the trail with over 2,000 native plants. Parks staff will water the plants as needed for the remainder of the season.

### C. Commission member updates

None

D. Do-outs

New do-out items for August 16, 2023 include:

- Chair Schroeher to invite Metro Blooms to a future meeting.
- Taillon to set up a joint meeting with the Parks Commission for November or early next year.
- Taillon to inquire about paying for EAC shirts in two installments.
- Taillon to forward Community Forestry Grant information to the City Engineer.
- Taillon to add volunteer request and recycling contamination article in newsletter.

E. September agenda

Commission members discussed the September agenda and asked Taillon to add 2024 work plan, park visit reports and shirt discussion to the September agenda.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Johnston** to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0