



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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 6:39 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Frye, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston (Vice Chair), 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 **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Bolstad**, 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 20, 2023. Member Johnston requested that the September meeting minutes be approved at the November meeting to provide time for him to submit a summary of his update on County Road E and Bellaire. Taillon will add the September 20, 2023 meeting minutes to the November agenda for approval.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. EAC shirts – *Action item*

Taillon stated that the remaining 2023 budget will cover the cost of 7 embroidered shirts. She requested that each commission member email their shirt size to her. She will order the shirts once she hears back from everyone. The commission members discussed color options and chose clover green.

It was moved by Chair Schroeher seconded by member Johnston to authorize Taillon to order 7 embroidered shirts with the City bear logo and 'Environmental Advisory Commission' text from the 2023 EAC budget not to exceed \$163.40.

Motion carried 7:0.

B. Board and Commissions Recognition Banquet presentation

The commission members reviewed the 2022 Board and Commissions Recognition Banquet EAC presentation and updated the following slides for the 2023 presentation:

- On the Expo slides, add that the League of Women Voters exhibit focused on their environmental initiatives.
- Taillon will coordinate the park restoration slide with Andy.
- Members added an EAC community involvement slide. Member Bolstad will email an image to Taillon from the downtown mobility and parking study steering committee presentation for inclusion on this slide.
- Keep ongoing program slides in presentation (adopt a drain, pollinator map, food scraps recycling, Zero Waste Events policy).

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Joint work session presentation

The commission members brainstormed topics to discuss at the joint workshop with City Council. Member Frye suggested discussion regarding electric equipment commitments and expanding on the native landscapes code. Member Bolstad would like to discuss increasing tree planting in the downtown area and supporting infrastructure to grow healthy trees. Member Frye mentioned that the EAC consider asking for concrete projects and for support of these projects. Member Greenleaf stated that Chair Schroeher did a great job at last year's joint work session and that she hopes that all Council members are able to attend this year.

B. 2024 Draft Work Plan

The commission members asked Taillon to include the draft 2024 Work Plan to the November meeting.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

Taillon mentioned that she and Sadie from the Parks Department gave a presentation to Rotary Club at Rotary Nature Preserve last week. The presentation described the restoration projects and partnerships. After the presentation, Taillon led a tour of the restoration areas.

B. Commission member updates

Member Bolstad provided an update on the downtown mobility and parking study steering committee meeting held on October 11, 2023. The study indicated that parking is not a serious issue as long as people are willing to walk one or two blocks. The planning team presented slides on mobility options such as one-way streets and increasing pedestrian flow. One option under consideration is to turn one block of 3rd Street into a pedestrian walkway. For Clark Ave at the farmers Market, duplicate what is

South of 2nd Street and put north of 2nd Street. The Farmers Market could be on the pedestrian walkway.

Member Frye stated that the next zoning code update community advisory committee meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2023.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for October 18, 2023 include:

- Members to email Taillon their shirt sizes.
- Taillon to update recognition banquet presentation slides and consult with Andy on the parks restoration slide.
- Members to brainstorm topics for discussion at the joint work session, and finalize at November meeting

D. November agenda

Commission members asked Taillon to add the joint work session presentation and draft 2024 work plan to the November agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried, 7:0