



**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024  
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rick Johnston (Vice Chair)

**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 **Bolstad**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried, 6:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on December 20, 2023. The commission members reviewed the draft December 20, 2023 meeting minutes and had the following changes: Item 1A, change 7:51 to 6:51. Item 7A, sentence 4, change Manager to Member. Item 7A, last sentence, change Manger to Member.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Greene**, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.

Motion carried, 6:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Joint work session recap

Member Bolstad complimented Chair Schroeher on his presentation to City Council at the joint work session and was happy to see that most of the Council members were in attendance. Member Frye wondered if the commission asked Council for anything specific. Chair Schroeher replied that the commission asked Council for feedback on

their 2024 priorities, and that Councilmember Edberg was very supportive of buckthorn removal. Member Luxford said that he regrets not asking Council what they want to see the EAC to work on. In response to Councilmember Edberg's interest in removing buckthorn, member Greenleaf suggested that the commission organize one buckthorn removal event this fall. Chair Schroeher mentioned that buckthorn removing tools are available through the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. When asked how long he stayed at the joint work session, Chair Schroeher responded that he attended most of the Park Advisory Commission (PAC) discussion, which was a more informal discussion than the Environmental Advisory Commission discussion, with more than one member presenting.

**B. 2024 Draft Work Plan**

The commission members reviewed the draft 2024 work plan. Chair Schroeher moved the buckthorn removal event from September to October. Member Luxford suggested that a request for volunteers at the fall buckthorn event be included in the spring newsletter and also submitted to the White Bear Press. Taillon will add this note to the work plan. The commission members are interested in beginning conversations with the Marketfest coordinator about possibly transitioning Marketfest to a zero waste event. Member Luxford suggested creating a list of tasks and asking for feedback. The list could include educating the public by staffing volunteers at each waste station, identifying haulers that offer compostable waste pick up, and working with the Marketfest vendors to switch to certified compostable products. Member Frye suggested looking at Mill City as an example. Chair Schroeher offered to email the Marketfest coordinator to see if she would be interested in meeting to discuss zero waste events.

**C. Joint meeting with Park Advisory Commission**

Taillon stated that she is working with the PAC staff liaisons to schedule a date for the joint meeting. She asked for thoughts on meeting agenda items in addition to reviewing and commenting on the restoration location maps. Member Greenleaf suggested talking about the plan and implementation priorities. Member Bolstad asked to include a budget discussion and how to prioritize projects on the agenda. Taillon mentioned that funding could possibly come from the SWPP budget. Member Bolstad responded that the PAC should be aware that funding could potentially come from the SWPP Fund and that the EAC can lead these projects. Chair Schroeher recommended that the meeting be scheduled with the PAC as soon as possible. He suggested turf to pollinator garden projects be included in the discussion. He offered to invite Metro Blooms to a future meeting with the PAC to introduce their pollinator demonstration garden technical and funding assistance program.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. 2024 Environmental Resources Expo**

Chair Schroeher asked Taillon to add the 2024 Environmental Resources Expo discussion to the February agenda.

## 7. DISCUSSION

### A. Staff updates

None

### B. Commission member updates

Member Greenleaf announced that her church is looking at installing ground mount solar with pollinator plantings. There are various rebates and credits available to help lower the cost of solar.

Member Frye noted that he is on the zoning code update committee which has met once so far, in November. The next meeting is scheduled for early February.

### D. Do-outs

New do-out items for January 17, 2024 include:

- Chair Schroeher to contact Marketfest coordinator to gauge her interest in making Marketfest a zero waste event.
- If Marketfest coordinator is interested in further discussion about converting Marketfest to a zero waster event, commission members to create a 'to do list' and timeline for this process.

### E. February agenda

Commission members asked Taillon to add the following to the February 21, 2024 agenda: 2024 Environmental Resources Expo, draft 2024 Work Plan.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried, 6:0