

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

|                            |  |                         |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Date: May 17, 2017         | Time: 6:30pm   | Location: WBL City Hall |
| COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT | Sheryl Bolstad, Bonnie Greenleaf, Greg Pariseau, Gary Schroeder, June Sinnett, Eric Wagner (chair) |                         |
| COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT  | None   |                         |
| STAFF PRESENT              | Connie Taillon   |                         |
| VISITORS                   | None   |                         |
| NOTETAKER                  | Connie Taillon   |                         |

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Staff added a water efficiency rebate update to Item 7. Discussion. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a) April 19, 2017 meeting

The commission members reviewed the April 19, 2017 draft minutes and had the following change: add the date of the Water Symposium to Item 7 Discussion. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Pariseau, to approve the minutes of the April, 2017 meeting as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

### 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### a) Temporary Fence – Commissioner Wagner

Commissioner Wagner gave an update on two types of mobile fencing that could be placed near Handlo's Pond and Willow Creek Wetland to control trash at these locations. One style is a rigid fence installed on a base. This fence comes in different heights and colors, but is heavy and would need to be positioned into place by machinery. The other style is a lighter weight netting material that is secured by cables and posts. Other options discussed include putting up no littering signs or installing a permanent fence. The commission members will continue looking at other options.

#### b) Environmental Resource Expo

Commission members provided updates on their exhibitor contacts. Commissioner Wagner is waiting to hear back regarding the tiny house, Chevy Volt and Tesla electric cars. Met Council and Conservation MN confirmed that they will be attending.

#### c) Budget List

Commission members discussed purchasing a rain barrel from the City to give away at the Environmental Resource Expo. Expo participants will enter their name in a drawing for the rain barrel. The winner does not need to live in White Bear Lake. Commission members asked staff to take a photo of the winner when they pick up their barrel. Other ideas included purchasing plant seeds to give away at the expo and handing out coins to kids who play the recycling fishing game. The giveaway would be limited to 10 coins each hour. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to purchase a rain barrel to give away at the Environmental Resource Expo at a cost of \$84 to come out of the EAC budget. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

**d) Review last month's do-outs**

A representative from Republic Services is scheduled to attend the June meeting to talk about recycling and organics collection and to answer questions.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Solar Power Hour**

Minnesota Renewable Energy Association (MREA) contacted staff about conducting another Solar Power Hour in July or August. Commission members suggested having the event at Boatworks Commons on a Tuesday or Thursday, making sure to schedule around City Council meetings.

**b) Matoska Park trash bags**

Staff suggested the possibility of providing plastic bags at Matoska Park that residents could use to pick up trash. The commission members do not see much trash at Matoska Park, but suggested possibly providing bags at the disc golf course, boat launch, or City Hall.

**c) New do-outs**

- Continue contacting organizations to table at the Expo
- Count how many coins are left and report to Eric
- Bring coins to Expo
- Group photo at Expo

**7. DISCUSSION**

• **Staff Updates**

- **Water Symposium Event – request for volunteers**

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Water Symposium will be held at the WBL High School – South Campus on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to noon. Staff asked if any commission members would like to volunteer to help sell rain barrels at the event from 9am to 11am. Paul Putzier, a hydrologist from the DNR, will be presenting from 11am to 11:30am.

- **Water Efficiency Rebate**

The City received another \$10,000 for the water efficiency rebate program through the end of June. Staff will email the rebate link to the commission members.

• **Commission Member Updates**

Commission members gave an update on the conservation and energy meet and greet with local legislator's event held by Conservation MN last month. The current legislation is looking at ways to cut funding and is not as interested in environmental issues as the previous legislation. It is important to email or local representatives to express concerns about cutting environmental funding.

• **June agenda**

A representative from Republic Services is tentatively scheduled to attend the June meeting.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2017 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. Motion carried, vote 6/0.