

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

Date: November 15, 2017	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Gary Eddy, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeder (Chair), June Sinnott	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Eric Wagner	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon	
VISITORS	Jesse Farrell, Assistant City Engineer	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Staff added GreenStep Cities signs to Item 7. Staff Update. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a) October 18, 2017 meeting

The commission members reviewed the October 18, 2017 draft minutes and had no changes.

Commissioner Schroeder moved, seconded by Commissioner Eddy, to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

### 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Jesse Farrell, Assistant City Engineer attended the meeting to introduce himself and meet the commission members, to discuss upcoming street reconstruction projects, and to answer questions. Jesse started working with the City this past March. He discussed the 2018 street reconstruction projects that include Birch Lake Blvd S., Old White Bear Avenue, and the neighborhood roughly bounded between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 96, and Highway 61 and Lake Avenue. The neighborhood south of 7<sup>th</sup> Street is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. This residential neighborhood has some of the oldest infrastructure in the City, which will require extensive utility replacements. The City is working with the watershed district to provide cost share opportunities for residents to install raingardens as part of the reconstruction projects. New trails are proposed as part of the reconstruction of Birch Lake Blvd S. and Old White Bear. Jesse also mentioned that the first of several public meetings is scheduled for November 16th for a potential South Shore Blvd project and trail. The City, Township, and County are working together to gather public input on this special project.

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### a) 2017-2018 Work Plan

- Storm drain stenciling

Commissioner Bolstad gave an update on her storm drain stenciling research. She looked at examples from St. Paul and the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO). VLAWMO implemented a storm drain stenciling program that covers the portion of the City within their jurisdiction. One completed stenciling project in the City is located at the intersection of McKnight and Cedar. VLAWMO created a storm drain stenciling kit that they rent out to interested groups or individuals. The kit includes

a stencil tracking sheet, stencils, spray paint, safety cones, a safety vest, and other miscellaneous supplies. VLAWMO staff trains participants on how to properly stencil a storm drain, tracks the number and location of stenciled drains on a map, and performs follow-ups to make sure the stencils are properly maintained. The challenge for the City is to extend the VLAWMO program Citywide. Staff mentioned that a City run stenciling program would take more staff time to administer than an adopt a drain program. Commissioners discussed possibly funding the stencil kits with their yearly budget and talking with the other watershed districts about starting their own programs. As a next step, staff will contact the other three watershed districts to gauge their interest in starting their own storm drain stenciling program.

-Downtown area recycling

Commissioner Eddy inventoried all of the outdoor trash and recycling containers in the Downtown area and at Boatworks Commons, VFW Memorial Park, Matoska Park, Sather Trail, City Hall, and the business area located just to the north of City Hall and south of 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Commissioner Eddy reported on the number of trash containers without corresponding recycling containers, which included 16 in the downtown area, 6 in the business area north of City Hall, 2 at the VFW Memorial Park, and 5 at Matoska Park. There are no trash and recycling containers outside of City Hall. Staff will work with Public Works to determine barriers to recyclable collection, and research how other cities collect recyclables in public spaces. The commission members will also consider conducting a waste sort to determine the amount of recycling being generated in these areas.

Commission members are interested in having a tour of the Public Works facility in 2018.

**b) Budget updates/discussion**

- Environmental Resource Expo banner

Commissioner Greene presented three design options for the Environmental Advisory Commission banner. The Commission members chose the first design with the 'City of White Bear Lake' text. The commission members also discussed purchasing a rain barrel to give away at the 2018 Expo.

Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Schroeder, to purchase a rain barrel for \$84.00 and a 1.5' x 8' banner not to exceed \$250.00 from the 2017 budget. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

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

Continue the discussion of 2018 priority goals at the December meeting.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) New do-outs**

- Commissioners:
  - Commissioner Greene will email banner design to Connie
  - Choose top three goals for 2018 and present at December meeting
  - Bring treats for the December meeting
- Staff:
  - Determine the required electronic format for the banner
  - Order banner
  - Determine cost of compost bin
  - Bring treats for the December meeting
  - Contact watershed districts re: storm drain stenciling
  - Schedule a tour of the Public Works Building

## 7. DISCUSSION

### • Staff Updates

- Comprehensive Plan update

Staff is in the process of creating a list of goals and objectives to include in the sustainability chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. A draft of the goals and objectives will be brought to the Commission for review and comment at the December meeting.

- GreenStep City signs

Public Works ordered GreenStep City road signs and installed them on four existing street signs this month at the following locations:

- 1) Eastbound Highway 96 just east of 35E
- 2) Westbound County Road E, just west of East County Line Road
- 3) McKnight Road at the intersection of South Shore Blvd
- 4) Intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> St. and Clark Ave. near the Ramsey County Library

- December agenda

Comprehensive Plan sustainability goals

### • Commission Member Updates

Commissioner Schroeher stated that the City Council recognized Greg Pariseau for his four years of volunteer service on the Environmental Advisory Commission at the November 14<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Staff introduced Greg and spoke briefly about his accomplishments, the Mayor presented him with a white bear statue as a token of the City's appreciation, and Greg did a nice job thanking City Council for all of their work. Commissioner Schroeher, Commissioner Eddy, and Commissioner Sinnett attended the event.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on December 20, 2017 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Motion carried, vote 6/0.