

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: January 17, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Gary Eddy, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeder (Chair), June Sinnett	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Eric Wagner	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Staff added 'business stickers' to staff updates. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Eddy, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) December 20, 2017 meeting

The commission members reviewed the December 20, 2017 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2017 as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Comprehensive Plan Update – Sustainability Matrix

Commission members reviewed the sustainability matrix and chose their top three objectives in each of the six categories: energy conservation, climate resiliency, water conservation, waste reduction, health/food, and natural resources. Staff tallied the votes and read the top objectives in each category:

Energy Conservation: consider variances to zoning and subdivision standards to promote the use of solar energy. Balance the potential for solar with the benefits of shade trees (3 votes); complete the transition to indoor LED lighting and operational changes in City-owned buildings (3 votes); replace the City's existing street lighting with LED's and full cutoff fixtures and consider adding smart grid attributes (2 votes).

Climate Resiliency: consider enrolling in the SolSmart program (3 votes); investigate the feasibility of installing electric vehicle charging stations at public facilities and support the installation of same on private property (3 votes); plan for more frequent large rain events, resilient infrastructure (2 votes); strive to purchase low emission fleet vehicles (2 votes); begin a tree tracking program with the goal of increasing tree canopy by 10% by 2040 (2 votes).

Water Conservation: reduce water demand by encouraging grey water systems in homes and businesses through education and possible financial incentives (3 votes); encourage the reuse of stormwater for irrigation on both commercial and residential properties (3 votes); review current irrigation enforcement practices and strengthen if necessary. Promote the “Report a Problem” link on the City’s website (3 votes); continue to promote rain barrels through the Recycling Association of MN distribution events and Watershed District cost share program (3 votes).

Waste Reduction: partner with Ramsey County to install an organics dumpster on City property or work with Ramsey County to begin blue bag curbside organics recycling by 2019 (4 votes); increase opportunities for recycling in public places. Strive to pair each trash can with a recycling can (3 votes); develop and implement a curbside organics program by the end of 2025 (3 votes); ensure recycling services are available to all multi-unit dwellings by 2020 (3 votes).

Health/Food: facilitate the expansion of the farmers market into the winter season (3 votes); support existing community gardens and the creation of new ones where feasible (3 votes); continue to promote the local food shelf’s efforts to provide healthy food for low income residents (2 votes); continue to partner with the YMCA in their offering of fitness and wellness opportunities to residents (2 votes).

Natural Resources: consider a city-wide ban of neonicotinoids (4 votes); consider treatment or removal of Ash trees each year in conjunction with the street reconstruction program (2 votes); conduct a study to determine the impact of Emerald Ash Borer on City property and create a plan of action and budget to mitigate those impacts (2 votes).

b) Storm drain stenciling

Staff contacted Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District to ask if they have a storm drain stenciling program. They do not have a program in place but they are willing to work with the City if there is a group or organization interested in stenciling within their District.

c) SolSmart Program

Staff stated that there are initiatives in another departments moving forward at this time, so we will hold off on applying for the SolSmart program. We will revisit applying for the program at a future date.

d) Budget updates

- Environmental Resource Expo banner

Staff reported that the banner has been ordered and paid for out of the 2017 budget. The print shop will deliver the banner to City Hall sometime this winter.

e) Review last month’s do-outs

Commissioner Greenleaf asked for a tally of cup and cone coin giveaways. Commissioner Schroeder reported that he gave away a total of 30 coins to kids playing the fishing game at the Expo and Commissioner Bolstad gave away 6 coins to volunteers that helped set up and take down the Expo tents. Commissioner Greenleaf will update the Environmental Acts of Kindness spreadsheet with these totals. This item can be taken off the do-out list. Commission members asked staff to check on the Public Works hours for a tour.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2018 Environmental Resource Expo

Commission members reviewed the exhibitor and volunteer list from 2017. Commissioner Greene offered to contact Scout Troup 494 to ask for volunteers. Commissioner Sinnett will contact Master Gardeners this winter to get the Expo event on their schedule. Commissioner Bolstad suggested that we use the folding

chairs from the Armory this year. Staff contacted the Marketfest coordinator to reserve the July 26th date for the Environmental Resource Expo and to have the exhibitor layout from last year approved. The coordinator likes the layout so no further changes are necessary until we finalize the exhibitor list for this year.

b) New do-outs

Staff to determine the number of catch basins in the City and contact VLAWMO to get a cost for the stenciling kit and report back at the February meeting.

7. DISCUSSION

• **Staff Updates**

- Surface Water Management Plan goals and objectives

Staff reported that the Surface Water Management Plan goals and objectives will be ready for review at the February meeting.

- GreenStep Cities workshop – electric vehicles

Staff attended the GreenStep Cities workshop on electric vehicles at the beginning of January. Presenters talked about converting certain fleet vehicles to electric and covered details on electric charging stations. Staff mentioned that City parking lots in the downtown area are scheduled for reconstruction in 2020. It may be a good opportunity at that time to install charging stations.

- Business stickers

Staff asked commission members their opinion about the possibility of creating stickers to recognize businesses for their “green” efforts. The commission members questioned how to determine if a business is sustainable, how to quantify sustainable improvements, and would there be an application process. Staff will add this item to a future agenda for further discussion.

• **Commission Member Updates**

Commissioner Eddy announced that he will have to leave the commission because he is moving out of the City. Tonight will be his last meeting.

Commissioner Sinnett reported on an article she read in the St. Paul Pioneer Press about the Recycling and Energy Center in Newport. Ramsey and Washington Counties recently purchased the plant and now require all of the trash generated in both Counties to be delivered to this plant. The article states that customers will see an increase in their trash bill as a result.

Commissioner Greene reported that he and Julie Drennen from Conservation Minnesota met with Senator Wiger from Minnesota Senate District 43. Commissioner Greene talked about what the Environmental Advisory Commission is working on. Senator Wiger was interested in creating a press release that highlighted the work of the commission. Commissioner Greene, Julie Drennen and staff worked together to write a list of accomplishments for the press release.

• **February Agenda**

Commission members requested that staff include ‘storm drain stenciling’ and ‘downtown area recycling containers’ on all agendas moving forward.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on February 21, 2018 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Greene moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. Motion carried, vote 6/0.