

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: February 21, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, June Sinnett	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeder, Eric Wagner	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon	
VISITORS	Samantha Crosby, Planning and Zoning Coordinator	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Staff requested to move item 6a to item 4. Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 3/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) January 17, 2018 meeting

The commission members reviewed the January 17, 2018 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Greene moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 as presented. Motion carried, vote 3/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Samantha Crosby, Zoning and Planning Coordinator, introduced the draft Natural Resources section of the Comprehensive Plan and asked for feedback from the commission members. Commissioner Bolstad asked how the water supply section relates to the lake level lawsuit. Staff responded that the language alludes to the lawsuit and includes objectives for water conservation measures. The Surface Water Management Plan does not address low lake levels but focuses more on flooding and water quality issues. Staff also mentioned that per capita water use in the City is low compared to other metro communities because the population is aging and the average household size is going down. We might see a future increase in water use as younger families move in.

Staff updated the commission members on the City's Emerald Ash Borer initiative identified in the Natural Resources section. City staff has mapped the location of Ash trees in public areas and has identified approximately one-third of these trees for treatment. Commission members noted that a consultant attended an Environmental Advisory Commission meeting about three years ago to talk about EAB strategies.

If the commission members are interested in commenting on other sections of the Comprehensive Plan, they can attend upcoming planning and parks commission meetings or email Samantha Crosby with comments.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Storm drain stenciling - update

Staff reported that the VLAWMO storm drain stenciling kit supplies cost \$320 dollars and includes stencils, brushes, paint, vests, and cones. Pendants are more expensive than stencils and cost \$70 for two boxes of twenty pendants. Staff also talked with RWMWD and they do not have a storm drain stenciling program but they are willing to work with us if there is a group interested in storm drain stenciling within their watershed.

b) Downtown area recycling

No discussion.

c) Review last month's do-outs

Staff will report on how many catch basins are in the City at the March meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Comprehensive Plan – Parks and Natural Resources Chapter

Moved to item 4.

b) Surface Water Management Plan – goals and objectives

Staff introduced the Surface Water Management Plan draft issues, goals, and objectives tables. Issues and goals were identified through a public survey, review of watershed district plans, and staff interviews.

For Table 6.1 Stormwater Runoff Volume, Commissioner Greene asked about the health risks associated with using stormwater runoff for irrigation at Lakewood Hills. His colleagues are conducting research on the health risks of irrigating with stormwater.

For Table 6.2 Lake and Wetland Management, Goose Lake is a topic of interest for the commission; the Bald Eagle Lake subwatershed is a high priority for storm drain stenciling; dog waste bags are located at the corner of Lake and Clark and Lake and 7th and are high quality.

For table 6.3 Commissioner Greene asked how the City manages gas station sites that are abandoned. Samantha stated that the MPCA requires underground tanks to be removed after 5 years.

The Commissioners suggested adding a list of acronyms to the plan.

The Surface Water Management Plan goals and objectives discussion will be continued at the March meeting, and will focus on Table 6.4 Natural Resources and Recreation and Table 6.5 Public Education and Outreach.

c) New do-outs

- Commission members will review Table 6.4 and Table 6.5 of the Surface Water Management Plan and bring comments and questions to the March meeting.
- Forward any additional comments on the Natural Resources section of the Comprehensive Plan to Samantha.
- Staff to contact Rice Creek Watershed District about storm drain stenciling.

7. DISCUSSION

- **Staff Updates**

- Spring newsletter

Staff is currently drafting articles for the spring newsletter, which will be mailed to residents the beginning of April. VLAWMO submitted an Adopt a Stormdrain article. Commission members would like to see a map of VLAWMO included with the article.

Staff provided an update on the status of solar panel installation on some of the City buildings. Staff is working with Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) to determine next steps for a solar RFP, and will update the commission on any progress.

- **Commission Member Updates**

No updates

- **March Agenda**

Commissioner Greene will give a 10-minute presentation on drinking water quality at the March meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on March 21, 2018 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. Motion carried, vote 3/0.