

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: March 21, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeher, June Sinnett	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Chris Greene, Eric Wagner	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon	
VISITORS		
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 the following changes: remove drinking water presentation from item 4 and add storm drain stenciling and downtown area recycling to item 5. Staff added 4th and Johnson raingarden planting project to item 7, staff updates. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) February 21, 2018 meeting

The commission members reviewed the February 21, 2018 draft minutes and had the following change: item 6b, third paragraph, add Lake and 7th as another dog waste bag dispenser location. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2018 as amended. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Greene's drinking water quality presentation will be rescheduled to the April 18, 2018 meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Surface Water Management Plan goals and objectives

Staff briefly described the Surface Water Management Plan draft issues, goals, and objectives tables that were originally presented at the March 21, 2018 meeting. This month's discussion focused on Table 6.2 Lake and Wetland Management, Table 6.4 Natural Resources and Recreation, and Table 6.5, Public Participation and Outreach.

For Table 6.2 Lake and Wetland Management Commissioner Greenleaf asked if we could make use of the old Public Works property in a way that would protect the wetland. Staff will ask about the proposed land use at that location and consider adding a wetland project objective in the table if appropriate.

Commissioners discussed objective 2.6 regarding potential water quality projects along the ditch near Polar Chevrolet. The commissioners previously targeted this area as a location for improvement since the parking lot runoff drains directly to the lake. They have also identified the storm sewer outfall near the Holiday Station Store as another potential water quality retrofit project.

For Table 6.4 Natural Resources and Recreation, Commission members discussed objective 4.1 regarding Purple Loosestrife management at Matoska Park. Purple Loosestrife was removed a few years ago at Matoska Park. There was also a buckthorn removal project in the park a few years ago. Staff mentioned that buckthorn and other upland invasive species are described in more detail in the Comprehensive plan but can also be included as an objective in the Surface Water Management Plan.

For objective 4.6 regarding aquatic invasive species control in White Bear Lake, Commission members suggested adding specific species such as Zebra Mussels.

Commission members asked about objective 4.16 and the newly planted prairie area on White Bear Lake. Staff mentioned that Ramsey County received a grant to remove Japanese Knotweed near the shoreline of White Bear Lake at the intersection of Morehead and Lake. After the knotweed was removed, the County seeded the site with native prairie species.

Commissioner Bolstad asked if the dog beach could be included as an objective under recreation. Staff said a paragraph about the dog beach is included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Schroeder asked if there is public access for canoes and fishing on Goose Lake. He sees people fishing on the shore of east Goose Lake across from Kowalski's, and people boating on Wet Goose Lake. Staff stated that land between White Bear Avenue and the shoreline of the lake across from Kowalski's is owned by Ramsey County. The City owns a small parcel on the south side of the lake that is not very accessible.

For Table 6.5 Public Education and Participation, commission members suggested adding storm drain stenciling and adopt a storm drain program to objective 5.12 "consider a database of residents and businesses interested in volunteering for stormwater related activities such as raingarden plantings, native garden maintenance, and shoreline cleanup events".

Commissioner Schroeder mentioned that it is difficult to find information about the spring and fall cleanup days and Environmental Expo on the City's website. He suggested putting event information on the calendar. Other commissioners were also having a difficult time finding environmental events and suggested having city events page or calendar of community events. Staff will add these events to the calendar.

b) Environmental Resource Expo

Commission members will start inviting organizations to exhibit at the Expo. The organizations that Eric Wagner and Greg Pariseau agreed to contact will need to be divided up amongst the remaining commissioners. Commissioner Bolstad agreed to contact Alliance for Sustainability, MN Renewable Energy Society, and Tamarack Nature Center. Commissioners would like to invite a solar company. Staff ordered free kitchen compost bins and reusable bags from the County and put the County fishing game on hold. The commissioners are interested in looking for a different game this year. Staff will get a list of games from the County. Commissioner Bolstad reminded commission members to request interactive displays when inviting organizations to attend. Commissioner Bolstad will help plan the event but will not be able to attend. Commissioner Greenleaf wants to purchase another rain barrel for the giveaway.

c) Storm drain stenciling

Commission members discussed the need for staff or volunteers to administer a Citywide storm drain stenciling program, including purchasing stencils and paint, training participants, mapping locations of stenciled stormdrains, and monitoring the condition of the stenciled area. Commissioner Greenleaf suggested recruiting a Master Water Steward to help.

d) Downtown area recycling

Commission members would like to see a recycling bin next to all of the trash bins in the Downtown area, but are concerned about cost and availability. Staff mentioned that Ramsey County offers grants to cover the cost of recycling bins in public spaces and may know where to purchase containers. Staff reported that there are logistics with transporting and dumping recyclables into the recycling dumpster at Public Works. Commissioners would like to invite staff from Public Works to attend a future meeting.

e) Review last month's do-outs

Nothing to report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Aqua Fair

Staff reported that the City is collaborating with the White Bear Lake Area School District, H2O For Life, and VLAWMO again this year for Aqua Fair, previously called Water Symposium. The event is being held at Otter Lake Elementary on Saturday, April 28, from 9am to noon. The City will have a table at the event and will need volunteers to help answer questions and sell rain barrels. Commissioner Greenleaf and Commissioner Bolstad might be able to volunteer at the City's table.

b) New do-outs

- Bonnie will bring a storm sewer map to the next meeting that shows the location of all catch basins in the City.
- Commissioner Greenleaf asked about the status of a drop off location for organics recycling. Staff reported that the County is looking at options to streamline the design, bidding, and construction process. Staff will report on any progress.
- Commissioners to research solar companies who may want to attend the Environmental Resource Expo.
- Staff will determine the number of catch basins in the City and report back at the April meeting.
- Staff will invite Public Works to attend a future meeting.

7. DISCUSSION

• Staff Updates

- National Mayors Water Challenge
The City will be part of the National Mayors Water Challenge again this year. Pledge online any time during the month of April.
- Cities Charging Ahead
The City is participating in the new Cities Charging Ahead peer cohort of local governments. Participants will receive technical assistance from CERT's, Great Plains Institute, and the state focused on accelerating the adoption of electric vehicle infrastructure and electric vehicle purchasing plans for City fleets. Staff will attend meetings throughout the year.
- Raingarden planting project
The raingarden on 4th and Lake will be planted sometime this spring or summer. Staff will determine a date and start recruiting volunteers.

- **Commission Member Updates**

Commissioner Schroeder reported that he is attending the Metro City Environmental Commission Conference on Saturday, April 7th.

- **April Agenda**

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

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on April 18, 2018 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnott, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm. Motion carried, vote 4/0.