

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

Date: May 16, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeher (Chair), June Sinnett	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	None	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and added the 4 Square Flats proposed development project and open house to item 7, commission member updates. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a) March 21, 2018 meeting

The commission members reviewed the March 21, 2018 draft minutes and had the following change: item 5a, paragraph eight, change Gosse to Goose. Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2018 meeting as amended. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

#### b) April 18, 2018 meeting

Commissioner Greene submitted language revisions for Item 4. Visitors and Presentations via email prior to the meeting. The commission members reviewed the revised April 18, 2018 draft minutes and had no additional changes. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2018 meeting as amended. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

### 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Nick Voss, Educational Coordinator with the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO), gave an overview of his new storm drain stenciling and adopt a storm drain programs that he started last year.

Groups such as scout troops can schedule a storm drain stenciling event. Interested participants rent a stenciling kit for free that includes a stencil, spray paint, safety vest, gloves, safety glasses, dust mask, garbage bag, traffic cones, broom, dustpan, brochures, instructions, and a stencil tracking sheet. Nick also created a storm drain stenciling training video that is posted on VLAWMO's website. Nick will choose stenciling locations based on priority areas such as the Goose Lake watershed; however, groups can request other areas as well. Nick maintains a current GIS map of all storm drains that are stenciled. Painted stencils last only 1 to 2 years. Scout troops redo the same drains each year so the paint stays fresh. As an option to painted stencils, a medal medallion can be secured to the top of curb using sticky tape. The medallions are easier to install and cleaner looking but the cost is higher than paint stenciling. A set of 20 medallions cost \$80.00. Commissioner Schroeher noticed medallions on Cedar and McKnight and said they are very visible.

Landowners can register with VLAWMO to adopt a stormdrain near their property. Participants receive an instruction packet and medallion to place on the curb above their adopted stormdrain. Throughout the season, participants clean up grass clippings and other debris near the drain and report to VLAWMO on how much debris was collected each year. Nick recently attended a watershed partners meeting through Hamline University and they just rolled out a metro-wide adopt a stormdrain program. The website is now live but the program will not be accessible until July or August. There will be three options for the level of participation (tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3). Tier 1 is the basic level where residents sign up and have the option of purchasing a packet and yard sign. With tier 2, the City/Watershed District pays a fee for the participant and there is access to promotional materials. Tier 3 includes custom signs/door hangers and an option where the City/Watershed District can choose specific subwatersheds to target. Nick suggested that we meet with all of our Watershed Districts to determine what tier they have chosen.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a) Environmental Resource Expo**

Commissioner Greene reported that the boy scouts would be able to help set up and take down again this year. Commission members mentioned that we would need at least five scouts to help. Commissioner Bolstad reported that Tamarack Nature Center confirmed attendance. She has not heard from the tiny house or Alliance for Sustainability. Commissioner Sinnett volunteered to contact Metro Transit. Staff will contact Good Things to ask if they need to use the City’s chairs for their annual sale.

**b) Downtown area recycling**

No discussion

**c) Review last month’s do-outs**

Commissioner Greenleaf dropped off the storm sewer map at City Hall last week. Commissioner Schroeder asked to keep the CERT invite on the current do-out list. Commission members will ask other communities about recycling in public spaces at a future Metro Environmental Commission Conference.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Comprehensive Plan – Sustainability Section**

The commission members reviewed the draft sustainability section of the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Greenleaf mentioned that we must already be close to our goal of reducing land disposal of solid waste to 1% because of the trash to energy program. She also asked what community garden we are referring to in the second paragraph of the Healthy Living/Food Access section. Staff stated that there is a community garden at a local church north of Stellmacher Park. Commissioner Bolstad asked if the statement “The City has lowered its carbon footprint by 80%” under the Vision for 2040 section is for the entire City or just City operations. Staff stated that it is most likely for City operations only and will revise the wording to state that the carbon footprint for City operations was been lowered by 80%.

**b) New do-outs**

Commission Members

- Continue to contact exhibitors for the Environmental Resource Expo
- Research metro wide adopt a stormdrain program and report at the June meeting. Think about next steps for storm drain stenciling/adopt a stormdrain program

Staff

- Email link for SWPPP presentation to Commissioners
- Forward solar email from Julie Drennen, Conservation MN

- Add the Metro Environmental Commission Conference on the June meeting agenda
- Contact Good Things re: chairs at the Armory

## 7. DISCUSSION

### • Staff Updates

- Staff passed around a copy of the annual SWPPP meeting PowerPoint presentation that Mark Burch, City Engineer, presented to City Council on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mark Burch summarized the City's 2017 stormwater activities for education and outreach, public participation and involvement, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site stormwater runoff control, post construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations.

### • Commission Member Updates

- Commissioner Greene gave an update on the 4 Square Flats community meeting that he attended. His environmental concerns for the project include the impervious surface ratio, potential increase in traffic at the intersection of County Road E and Bellaire, the amount of business waste generated, and where the waste will be stored. Staff stated that the City would require rate control and water quality treatment for the impervious surfaces.

### • June Agenda

Metro Environmental Commission Conference discussion.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on June 20, 2018, 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm. Motion carried, vote 5/0.