

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

Date: June 20, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeber (Chair), Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Bonnie Greenleaf, June Sinnett	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Staff added the aquatic invasive species ID workshop to Item 7 Staff updates. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a) May 16, 2018 meeting

The commission members reviewed the May 16, 2018 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Greene moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

### 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

The new commission members introduced themselves. Commissioner Winkler is an occupational therapist and enjoys canoeing and camping. He joined the commission to work on clean water and waste management efforts. Commissioner Johnston is a licensed geologist and enjoys boundary waters trips and being active in scouts. He joined the commission to be involved at a local level.

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### a) Environmental Resource Expo

Staff reported that Commissioner Greenleaf is not able to attend the expo this year; she will drop off the Northern Gardener magazines at City Hall before the event. Staff stated that Sean from Alliance for Sustainability expressed interest in attending the Expo. Staff will call Sean to confirm his attendance. Staff will provide a map and instructions for commission members to forward on to their respective exhibitor contacts before the event. Staff will also provide chairs and finalize the giveaway materials for the free Northern Gardener membership.

#### b) Storm drain stenciling/adopt a stormdrain

Commissioner Schroeber summarized the May VLAWMO adopt a storm drain and storm drain stenciling presentation for the new commission members. The commission members plan to keep moving forward with the adopt a stormdrain program and will consider supporting the Hamline University metro program.

**c) Downtown area recycling**

Commissioner Schroeder summarized the downtown recycling project for the new commission members. Commissioner Johnston asked how much recycling is actually generated in the downtown area. A trash audit could be performed to get a better idea of the need for recycling containers. Commission members discussed the possibility of creating a staging area for the recycling containers to make it easier for pickup. Staff will discuss this with Public Works.

Staff briefly explained how the China Sword is affecting our recycling program. The City met with Republic Services and Eureka Recycling and they both stated that rates are being negatively impacted. Our recycling processed locally so we do not have to be concerned about our recycling ending up in the waste stream. Both organizations stressed the need for education to reduce contamination levels. The commission members asked staff to include more recycling education on the City's website and in newsletters.

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

Staff will contact all watershed districts to ask about their planned involvement in the metro wide adopt a stormdrain program.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) New do-outs**

Commission Members

- Email Expo map and instruction to exhibitors

Staff

- Update Commissioner Winkler's phone number on the roster
- Set up a give-away for the Northern Gardener membership
- Email expo layout to the Marketfest coordinator
- Contact Alliance for Sustainability
- Include more recycling education on the City's website and in the newsletter
- Call watershed districts this fall and discuss the metro wide adopt a stormdrain program. Invite a representative to a meeting
- Ask Public Works about creating a staging area for downtown recycling pickup
- Schedule the 4<sup>th</sup> and Johnson raingarden planting day on September 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>

**7. DISCUSSION**

**• Staff Updates**

- Raingarden curb cuts

The curb cut raingarden project is moving forward. Four residences within the street reconstruction project in the downtown area have committed to installing a raingarden on their property, for a total of five raingardens. The next step is to send out a request for quotes to contractors.

- Solar RFP

The Solar Possible collaboration continues to move forward. The next step is for solar contractors to visit each site.

- Solar United Neighbors Event at City Hall – July 12

Solar United Neighbors will be at City Hall on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to talk about a homeowner group buy opportunity for rooftop solar.

- **Staff Updates** *(continued)*

- Aquatic Invasive Species ID Workshop – June 26  
Washington Conservation District is hosting an aquatic invasive species identification event on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Matoska Park gazebo. Commission members expressed an interest in adding aquatic invasive species information to the City’s website.

- **Commission Member Updates**

- Commissioner Schroeher and Commissioner Greene gave a quick summary about the Metro Environmental Commissions Conference they attended in April.
- Commissioner Winkler asked staff to update his phone number on the roster.
- A commission member noticed sprinklers running in the rain in the development just east of the golf course.

- **August Agenda**

There will be no July meeting. Staff will add the work plan to the August agenda. Commissioners should come prepared to discuss ideas and priorities for 2019.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on August 15, 2018, 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Motion carried, vote 5/0.