

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: September 19, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeber (Chair), June Sinnett, Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Rick Johnston	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Staff added a letter to the mayor to Item 7, Staff Updates. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) August 15, 2018 meeting

The commission members reviewed the August 15, 2018 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Review last month's do-outs

Commissioner Greenleaf asked if any of the commission members have researched the metro adopt a stormdrain program. Commissioner Schroeber stated that he looked on the metro adopt a stormdrain program website in July and the program was not up and running at that time.

Staff spoke with the City of Maplewood regarding recycling containers in City parks. The City recently purchased dual trash and recycling containers for some of their parks. The new container has separate lightweight trash and recycling bins within the larger container that their parks department load onto a small flatbed vehicle to bring to their disposal site. They have spare bins on the truck to replace the full bins. Commissioner Schroeber stated that there should be a recycling bin next to each trash bin in the downtown area. Currently there are only a few randomly placed recycling containers.

Commission members asked to include recycling articles in City newsletters. Staff stated that recycling articles are included in the fall newsletter, which should be in mailboxes in approximately one week.

Commission members are interested in attending a tour of Public Works yet this fall. Most commission members are available for an early morning tour.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2019 Work Plan

Commission members discussed priority projects for 2019. Commissioner Greenleaf is interested in pursuing solar panels on City buildings, charging for plastic bags, and adding a compost drop-off site. Commissioner Schroeder stated that grass clippings in the street are still an issue and he would like to include education as a priority in 2019. Staff will bring a draft lawn clipping door hanger to the next meeting that staff intends to use for education. Commission members will review work plan goals from 2018 and each choose top priorities to share at the October meeting.

b) New do-outs

- Commissioner Greene will forward the Scout leader mailing address to staff.
- Staff will bring printed copies of the EAC roster to the October meeting
- Staff will bring grass clipping door hanger example to October meeting
- Review work plan goals list and choose top priorities for October work plan discussion

Commission member left at 8pm

7. DISCUSSION• **Staff Updates**

- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – October 2, 6pm Boatworks Commons
The volunteer appreciation dinner will be at Boatworks Commons on October 2 starting at 6pm.
- Installing Turf Alternatives Workshop
The City is hosting a Turf Alternatives Workshop at City Hall on October 10th. The workshop will start at 6pm and feature a presentation from a turf alternatives and bee expert from University of Minnesota. The cost is \$5 dollars.
- Solar Power Hour
The City is hosting a Solar Power Hour at City Hall on October 11th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. This informational session will describe a group purchase opportunity for homeowners interested in adding solar to their rooftops.
- Street reconstruction raingarden project
The five cost share raingardens constructed as part of the 2018 street reconstruction program are now complete. The partners will be offering this program again as part of the 2019 street reconstruction program. Information on the raingarden cost share opportunity will be mailed out this fall and announced at the public meeting in November.
- Rooftop solar
Staff is in the process of answering specific questions that council members have regarding the proposed rooftop solar project. Commission members expressed interest in providing a recommendation on the project. Staff will add this item to the October 17, 2018 agenda.
- Letter to the Mayor
Staff shared a letter from a White Bear Lake student asking the Mayor to declare a plastic free day. The commission members commended the student for her initiative and discussed how difficult it would be to not use plastic for a day since plastic is so prevalent in everything we use. Other options will be discussed at future meetings.

- **Commission Member Updates**

- Raingarden planting day

Commissioner Bolstad reported on the raingarden planting event that was held on Saturday, September 8th. She stated that commissioner's Greenleaf and Schroeher were among the neighborhood volunteers who helped plant over 200 native plants in the City owned raingarden located at 4th and Johnson.

- **September Agenda**

- Staff will include the 2018-2019 work plan, officer election, and subcommittee discussion on the October agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on October 17, 2018, 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Winkler moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm. Motion carried, vote 5/0.