

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: October 17, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeder (Chair), June Sinnett, Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT		
STAFF PRESENT	Ellen Hiniker, City Manager and Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	Julie Drennen, Conservation Minnesota	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Staff requested that Item 6a Renewable energy recommendation, be moved to just after Item 4 Visitors and Presentations. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 7/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) September 19, 2018 meeting

The commission members reviewed the September 19, 2018 draft minutes and had the following change: add the text 'Other options will be discussed at future meetings' after the last sentence under Item 7 Discussion, Staff Updates, Letter to the Mayor. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2018 meeting as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0, Commissioner Johnston abstained.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Ellen Hiniker, City Manager, was in attendance to update the commission on testing the MPCA will be conducting at the intersection of County Road E and Bellaire Ave. Commissioner Johnston gave a brief history of the area. The MPCA, through their petroleum release program, oversaw investigation of petroleum leaks at the former gas station sites at the NE, NW, and SE corners of the intersection at County Road E and Bellaire. The MPCA approved the investigations and closed all three files between 1996 and 2006. As part of the last investigation, carbon tetrachloride was detected at the NW site and this non-petroleum release was referred to the Superfund Site Assessment Program in 2006. Further investigation determined that the NW site was not the source location of the chemical on that site and the site owner was provided a "No Association Determination" in 2007 releasing them from further responsibility. However, the source of the carbon tetrachloride remained unresolved. Commissioner Johnston also noted that the site on the SW corner was also previously a gas station, but he was not aware of any investigation of potential petroleum or non-petroleum releases at the site.

After City staff became aware of the unresolved contamination issue in 2018, they contacted MPCA. Ms. Richter stated that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is working with the City to determine if a soil vapor intrusion risk from carbon tetrachloride exists, and if so, to what extent. The MPCA will conduct soil vapor sampling to determine the location of the carbon tetrachloride and whether it has migrated. If they find

the chemical is migrating towards a building, they will perform a test beneath the building by drilling through the slab. If vapor intrusion risk is found to occur in the building, a mitigation system similar to a radon system would be installed. The MPCA will be hiring a contractor to move forward with the testing before the end of the year. A Commission member asked if the tanks have been removed. Ms. Hiniker responded that the tanks have been removed from the NW, NE, and SE sites and that a city staff believed the tanks had been removed from the SW site. Staff will keep the commission members updated on any progress and will include this item on the November agenda.

Ms. Hiniker reported that the Mayor, as President of the League of Minnesota Cities, was invited to be part of a Climate-Smart Municipalities exchange between four Minnesota Cities and four cities in Germany. If the City chooses to participate, White Bear Lake and Ludenscheid will be paired together as the two newest Cities in the exchange program. This exchange is made possible by a grant from the German Government. Ms. Hiniker is researching the opportunity further and will bring this partnership opportunity to City Council next month.

Julie Drennen with Conservation Minnesota announced that she accepted a position at the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). CEE is involved in energy efficiency programs and offers home audits. Julie will be working with utilities to offer more energy efficiency programs. Her last day is this Friday, October 21st.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Officer election

Commission members discussed the chair and vice chair positions that are up for re-election.

Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to nominate Commissioner Schroeher as chair for 2019. Motion carried, vote 7/0.

Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Schroeher, to nominate Commissioner Bolstad as vice chair for 2019. Motion carried, vote 7/0.

b) Work plan

Commission members discussed ideas for 2019 priority projects. Commissioner Greenleaf is interested in establishing an organics recycling drop-off location in the City. Commission members discussed planting pollinator plants in City Parks in 2019. As a first step, commission members discussed setting up a meeting with the Parks Commission in January to introduce the project. Commission members discussed inviting Jesse Farrell, Assistant City Engineer, to the February meeting to discuss the 2019 street reconstruction projects. Commission member Sinnott discussed plastics use, and would like to consider adding education about plastic use and alternatives at the 2019 Expo. She asked that this discussion be added to the November agenda. Commission members asked about the hauler contract. Staff stated that the hauler contract expires within the next year. Staff will be working with the hauler to draft new language, and plans to present the draft contract to the commission for review and comment.

c) Review last month's do-outs

Staff reported that the City owns and maintains approximately 1,800 storm sewer catch basins. There are approximately 640 catch basins in the City that are owned by the County or State.

Commission members are available for a tour of Public Works at 7:30am on Wednesday, November 14th or Friday, November 16th. Staff will set up the tour and email the Commission Members with the final date and time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Renewable Energy recommendation

Staff reported that the rooftop solar project is tentatively scheduled to go to City Council for their vote on November 27th. Chair Schroehler discussed providing a recommendation to Council and offered to write a letter of support on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Commission. Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to recommend Chair Schroehler write a letter of support for the City's rooftop solar project to the Mayor and City Council on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Commission. Motion carried, vote 7/0.

b) New do-outs

Commission Members

- Continue to review work plan goals list and choose top priorities for the November work plan discussion.
- Chair Schroehler will write a letter to the Mayor and City Council regarding rooftop solar on City buildings.
- Chair Schroehler plans to attend the Metro Watershed Partners meeting on November 5th to learn more about the metro wide adopt a stormdrain program.

Staff:

- Reschedule the November meeting to the 14th.
- Schedule a tour of Public Works from 7:30am to 8:30am on Wednesday, November 14th or Friday, November 16th.
- Bring printed copies of the EAC roster and grass clipping door hanger example to the November meeting.
- Add the MPCA site review to the 2019 volunteer recognition dinner slide show.
- Add plastics discussion to the November agenda.
- Present a draft hauler contract for review and comment in 2019.

7. DISCUSSION

a) Subcommittees

No discussion

b) Grass clippings door hanger

No discussion

c) Staff updates

No discussion

d) Commission member updates

Chair Schroehler contacted Hamline University to inquire about the new Metro-wide Adopt a Stormdrain program they plan to make available in March 2019. To learn more about the program, Chair Schroehler plans to attend the next Watershed Partners Meeting on November 5th and report back at the November meeting.

e) November agenda

Commission members discussed changing the date of the regular scheduled November 21st meeting to November 14th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Staff will add the work plan, subcommittees, and lawn clipping door hanger items on the November agenda and include the Letter to the Mayor plastics discussion and MPCA site review.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2018, 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm. Motion carried, vote 7/0.