

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: November 14, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeder (Chair), June Sinnett, Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Chris Greene	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS		
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) October 17, 2018 meeting

Staff stated that the October 17, 2018 draft meeting minutes will be brought to the December meeting for approval. This will give the City Manager time to review the Visitors and Presentations item in the draft minutes and provide comments.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Work plan

Commission members discussed priority goals for 2019 including downtown area recycling containers, adopt a stormdrain program, and Expo exhibit upgrades. For each goal, identify an individual or subcommittee willing to lead the project and share progress reports at the monthly meetings.

Commission members discussed conducting a downtown area recycling pilot project on Washington Avenue in the summer of 2019 to determine the level of use and if contamination seen by the public works department could be minimized by using an appropriate recycling container and proper signage.

Commissioner Greenleaf offered to research available rebates for replacing inefficient toilets, irrigation, and washing machines. Staff stated that the City received a water efficiency grant from the Metropolitan Council to provide rebates for residents.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

a) Staff updates

- MPCA Site Review

Commissioner Johnston reported that he and staff from the City and MPCA met at City Hall earlier today to discuss next steps for the soil vapor samplings at the intersection of County Road E and Bellaire. The MPCA plans to have a contractor collect ten samples the first week in December at the locations shown on the map. The MPCA expects the results to be available approximately two weeks after the sampling is complete. The results will determine if further sampling is required. The MPCA also stated that they plan to resample next summer. The City will contact the MPCA in early December to see if the project is moving forward as scheduled.

- Holiday lights recycling

Staff reported that the holiday lights recycling program is set to start on November 15 and run through January 15. There will be a collection bin at the Sports Center and City Hall. Last year the program collected 1400 pounds of lights. Staff recycled the lights at NRI in Hugo.

- RCWD Watershed Management Plan open house

Staff announced that residents of Rice Creek Watershed District are invited to submit comments about their priorities and concerns for consideration as part of their 10-year Watershed Management Plan update. Comments should be submitted to wmp@ricecreek.org by December 31, 2018. Residents are also invited to attend the District's open house for the watershed management plan on Thursday, November 15, 2018 from 5-8pm at the Ramsey County Library Shoreview location.

b) Commission member updates

- Metro Wide adopt a stormdrain program

Chair Schroeher attended a Watershed partners meeting last Monday at Hamline University to learn more about their adopt a drain program. There were 50 to 60 attendees from watershed districts, Hennepin County, and a few Cities. The adopt a drain programs started two or three years ago as a pilot project in St. Paul and Bloomington. The program will be made available metro wide this coming March. The program includes a metro wide storm sewer map, yard signs, and tool kits that can be checked out. To utilize this program, the City would sign up as a Watershed Partner for an annual cost of approximately \$2,100, based on population. Staff can add information about the program to the City's website.

c) Subcommittees

Commission members discussed creating subcommittees to work on specific issues, set goals, and make proposals for projects. Commissioner's Bolstad and Johnston are interested in forming a recycling subcommittee. Chair Schroeher and Commissioner's Greenleaf and Winkler will be on a stormwater/pollinator subcommittee, and commissioner's Johnston and Sinnett will create an Expo subcommittee. Staff will email the Expo spreadsheet to the Expo subcommittee.

d) Do-outs

Commission members and staff discussed items on the current do-out list and removed completed tasks. The following items were added to the list:

- Finalize work plan in December
- Map of City Parks for December meeting (for pollinator and turf grass discussion)
- Bring grass clipping door hanger example to December meeting
- Bonnie to research 'Water Sense' grants
- Recycling subcommittee to consider creating an Expo display about plastic use and alternatives
- Email Rick and June Expo spreadsheet
- Watershed district map
- Staff to email EAC about solar agenda date

e) December agenda

Staff will add the work plan, subcommittee reports, MPCA site review update, and lawn clipping door hanger items on the December agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on December 19, 2018, 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. Motion carried, vote 6/0.