

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: December 19, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeher (Chair), June Sinnett, Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Sheryl Bolstad	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS		
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 had no changes. Staff added rooftop solar to Item 7. Discussion. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) October 17, 2018 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the October 17, 2018 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

b) November 14, 2018 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the November 14, 2018 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Work plan

Commission members reviewed the draft work plan and had no changes to the high priority goals for 2019, which include the storm drain stenciling/adopt a stormdrain program, downtown area recycling containers, pollinator plantings on City property, and expo exhibit upgrades. Commission members discussed focusing on high priority goals for 2019 as part of the regular meetings, and have each subcommittee work on the other goals listed on the work plan. Commission members discussed textile recycling and suggested that staff update the City's website to include a list of places that accept non-useable clothing. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to approve the 2019 Work Plan. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

b) Adopt a Drain program

Staff reported that Nick Voss from VLAWMO is working with Watershed Partners to refine the Adopt-a-Drain program. One option discussed at the last partner meeting was to provide materials to partners who want to promote the program in specific targeted subwatersheds. Since VLAWMO and the City have been collaborating on water quality projects in the Goose Lake subwatershed, this area would be an ideal location to roll out a targeted Adopt-a-Drain program. To promote the program to residents in the Goose Lake subwatershed, targeted promotional strategies could include door hangers purchased from Watershed Partners or a sign-up-on-the-spot strategy such as the Environmental Resources Expo. Nick calculated approximately 2000 parcels in the Goose Lake subwatershed. Assuming 350 households are targeted in 2019 and 100 households sign up in the first year, the cost estimate for promotional materials would be \$269 for 350 door hangers, \$1,200 for 100 yard signs, and \$400 for 100 info packets. VLAWMO has tentatively agreed to contribute \$1,200 for promotional materials. Commission members asked if we must use the Watershed Partners promotional items. Staff will talk with Nick and report back at the January meeting. Staff stated that in order for residents to sign up for the adopt a drain program, the City must sign up as a Watershed Partner. Watershed Partners quoted a cost of approximately \$1,800 for a community of our size. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to recommend the City of White Bear Lake become a partner of Watershed Partners and to request that the appropriate yearly partner fee be budgeted. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Grass clippings door hanger

Commission members reviewed the draft grass clippings door hanger and suggested adding language stating that grass clippings can be composted or taken to a County yard waste site, and that grass clippings should be kept off the street. They also suggested adding a link to the full illicit discharge ordinance instead of siting the full ordinance on the back of the door hanger, and in its place add a list of homeowner 'tips' for protecting water quality.

7. DISCUSSION

a) Subcommittees

Commission members discussed who signed up for which subcommittee: Commissioner's Bolstad and Johnston signed up for the recycling subcommittee; Chair Schroeder and Commissioner's Greenleaf and Winkler signed up for the stormwater/pollinator subcommittee, and Commissioner's Greene, Johnston and Sinnott signed up for the expo subcommittee.

b) Map of City parks

Staff distributed a map to each commission member that identifies the location of parks and open space within the City. Commission members asked about the labeling of Lakeaires Elementary and Ebba Park. Staff will review and update the map if needed. Commission members discussed shoreland property and possible City owned sites for shoreland restoration.

c) Staff updates

- MPCA Site Review

Staff reported that the MPCA emailed a status update on November 28, 2018 stating nine soil-gas sampling points at the County Road E and Bellaire site and surrounding area were anticipated to begin on Tuesday, December 4 and be completed by Wednesday, December 5. They planned to return later that week or the following week to collect the first round of soil-gas samples from those points. Commissioner Johnston stated that the MPCA anticipates results by the end of next week.

- Ramsey County Recycling Coordinator Meeting Update

Staff reported that Ramsey and Washington Counties are considering a curbside organics collection program. The counties plan to collect organic waste from residents and small businesses using durable

compostable bags co-collected with trash. The bag of organic waste would be placed directly into trash carts and then sorted at the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Center in Newport. After separation, bags of organic waste would be delivered to compost sites or anaerobic digestion centers. As part of this program, the Recycling and Energy Center plan to add on to the building to provide additional space for the bag separation process. An RFP for durable compostable bags and construction improvements will be released in April 2019, with a contractor chosen by September 2019. The curbside organics program is expected to be rolled out to the public by mid-2021.

- Goose Lake stakeholder meeting – Jan. 16

Staff announced that Vadnais Lake Water Management Organization is hosting a Goose Lake stakeholder meeting on January 16, 2019 from 4pm to 5:15pm at Vadnais Heights City Hall. Commission Members are invited to attend.

- Rooftop Solar

Staff reported that the rooftop solar project is scheduled for the January 22, 2019 City Council meeting.

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:

- Commissioner Winkler will email AIS information from the Washington County event at Matoska Park.
- Staff will notify the Parks Commission staff liaison about an EAC member attending the February Parks Commission meeting to discuss pollinator plantings.
- Staff will invite an engineering department representative to attend the February EAC meeting to discuss 2019 street reconstruction projects.
- Staff will update Lakeaires Elementary and Ebba Park on the Parks and Open Spaces map if needed.
- Staff will inquire about using our own promotion items for the Adopt a Drain program.

e) January agenda

Staff will add the MPCA site review update, lawn clipping door hanger, Adopt a Drain program, and a reminder about the rooftop solar Council meeting on the January agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held at City Hall on January 16, 2019 at 6:30pm. Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Motion carried, vote 6/0.