

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: January 16, 2019	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeder (Chair), June Sinnott	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Rick Johnston, Robert Winkler	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) December 19, 2018 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the December 19, 2018 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Green, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Adopt a Drain program

Staff recapped the discussion from last month regarding a possible collaboration with VLAWMO to pilot the Watershed Partners Adopt a Stormdrain in the Goose Lake subwatershed. To participate in the program, the City must join Watershed Partners and pay a yearly membership fee of approximately \$1,800. Commissioners asked why the City must sign up with Watershed Partners to participate in the program being VLAWMO is already a partner, and what do we get for this fee. Staff stated that each organization must have their own membership to participate in the Adopt a stormdrain program. The fee helps to cover the cost of maintaining metro wide Adopt a Stormdrain website and educational materials and allows the City to take part in monthly partner meetings. As a partner, the City can participate in other Watershed Partner initiatives as well.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

a) Pollinator plantings in parks

The stormwater & pollinator subcommittee met to discuss potential projects aimed at increasing pollinator plantings in City parks. The subcommittee is proposing projects specifically targeting the replacement of maintained turf grass with pollinator plantings. Chair Schroeder is interested in meeting with the Parks

Commission in February to discuss potential projects and to gather feedback. Staff will work with the Parks Commission liaison to add pollinator plantings to the February Parks Commission agenda. Chair Schroeher will draft an email to the Parks Commission staff liaison requesting to attend the February Parks Commission and briefly describing the goal of increasing pollinator plantings in City parks.

b) Subcommittee updates

See item 7a.

c) Staff updates

- MPCA Site Review

Staff reported the results of the first round of soil-vapor sampling for VOC's at the intersection of County Road E and Bellaire. Property to the North, East, and West of the intersection are below screening levels. To verify the results during the non-heating season, another round of testing will be completed after April 1st. Elevated VOC's were detected in the SW quadrant of the intersection. More investigation is needed to define the southern boundary.

- Rooftop solar

Staff reported that the rooftop solar agenda item is anticipated to go before City Council sometime this winter.

- Environmental Resources Expo

Staff recently contacted the Marketfest coordinator and confirmed that the 2019 Environmental Resources Expo is scheduled for the last Marketfest on Thursday, July 25th.

d) Commission member updates

Commissioner Sinnett recapped the Goose Lake stakeholder meeting she attended on January 16th. She stated that VLAWMO staff presented information on the proposed Goose Lake alum treatment project and related revegetation plan. The Oak Knoll Pond spent lime pilot project was also discussed. Staff will email the commission members a link to the VLAWMO presentation and shallow lakes video.

e) 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:

- Chair Schroeher will draft an email to the Parks Commission staff liaison requesting to attend the February Parks Commission; describing the goal of increasing pollinator plantings in City parks; and listing preliminary ideas to help reach the goal.
- Staff will email Metropolitan Council contact information to Commissioner Greenleaf.
- Staff will email a link to the VLAWMO Goose Lake presentation and shallow lakes video posted on the VLAWMO website.
- Staff will continue to research the Adopt a Drain Program and report back at the February meeting.

f) February agenda

Include the Adopt a Drain program, Environmental Resources Expo, and 2019 street reconstruction projects on the February agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held at City Hall on February 20, 2019 at 6:30pm. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Motion carried, vote 5/0.