

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: March 20, 2019	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, June Sinnett, Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Gary Schroeher	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	None	
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. Staff added Climate Smart Municipalities to item 7b Staff Updates. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

Commission member arrived at 6:35pm

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) February 20, 2019 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the February 20, 2019 draft minutes and had no changes.

Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Nate Christensen from the City's Engineering Department discussed the upcoming 2019 street reconstruction projects. The project locations include Garden Lane and streets to the east of Stewart Avenue, south of 7th Street (including 7th), and west of Lake Avenue. An infiltration trench is proposed on the south side of Garden Lane to provide stormwater treatment. Due to high groundwater, underground stormwater treatment will not be included as part of the downtown area reconstruction project. The City is spending some of its volume reduction credits through Rice Creek Watershed District to satisfy the water quality requirement in this area. These credits were banked from past stormwater projects. The Rice Creek Watershed District and City are partnering again to offer a raingarden cost share program for residents within the reconstruction area. Approximately thirteen residents have expressed interest in the program. Nate briefly discussed the proposed 2020 reconstruction project locations, including three City parking lots in the Downtown Area, Cottage Park Road, a residential area surrounding Elm Street in the southwest corner of the City, and a residential area surrounding Glen Oaks Avenue in the southeast corner of the City.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Adopt a Drain program

Staff updated the commission on the metro-wide Adopt a Drain Program. The Adopt a Drain website became live this week. Any resident can go on the website and adopt a drain. VLAWMO is interested in collaborating with the City to provide targeted educational materials about the program within the Goose Lake subwatershed.

b) Downtown area recycling

Commission members discussed strategies for incorporating recycling in the downtown area. The recycling subcommittee will create a map showing the location of all recycling and trash containers in the downtown area and research options for new combined trash and recycling containers. The next step will be to determine locations for the new trash and recycling containers and if any of the existing trash containers can be removed. Staff will provide a base map of the downtown area.

c) Pollinator plantings in parks

Commissioner Schroeder provided an email update summarizing his meeting with the Parks Commission on February 21, 2019. The Parks Commission seemed very receptive to planting more pollinator plants but had concerns about maintenance obligations, attracting ticks, and determining the types of plants to plant. They also discussed possibly planting pollinator plants instead of trees at the Arbor Day event in May. Staff will include pollinator plantings on the April Environmental Advisory Commission agenda to discuss possible next steps.

d) 2019 Environmental Resources Expo

The commissioners discussed changes to the exhibitor list. Staff will update the contact information for Conservation Minnesota. Commissioner Bolstad will not be contacting the Honor Society this year because there was a good turnout of Boy Scouts last year to help with setup and takedown. Commissioner Winkler will contact Rainbow Tree Care to invite them to the event. Commissioner Bolstad will email the commission members sample invite language. Invites should be emailed out by the April meeting. Staff mentioned that Ramsey County has phone holders that can be given away at the event.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

Commission member left at 8:00pm

7. DISCUSSION

a) Subcommittee updates

None

b) Staff updates

- Volunteer cleanup event

Staff reported that there is a volunteer opportunity to clean storm drains and hang Adopt-a-Drain door hangers in the Goose Lake subwatershed. Staff will provide more information at the April meeting.

- Environmental Commission Conference – April 13

The statewide Environmental Commission Conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9am to 2pm at Hennepin United Methodist Church.

- Climate Smart Municipalities

Staff updated the commission on the Climate Smart Municipalities exchange program with Germany. A German exchange student was selected to help the City this summer with energy related projects such as EV charging infrastructure, electrifying fleet vehicles, and education. The intern will start on April 7th.

c) Commission member updates

Commissioner Greene provided an update on the Water Gremlin TCE meeting. The main question he still has that was not addressed at the meeting is which equipment failed and how could it have been in failure mode without it being detected. He stated that there is a bill in the legislature to ban TCE.

d) Do-outs

Commission members and staff discussed items on the current do-out list and added the following:

- Commissioner Bolstad will email example invitation language for expo participants.
- Commissioner Bolstad will research options for trash and recycling containers in the downtown area.
- Commissioners and staff will email an invite to respective Expo participant contacts.
- Commissioner Johnston will create a location map of downtown area trash and recycling containers.
- Staff will provide a map of the downtown area to Commissioner Johnston.
- Staff will email an Adopt a Drain link to commission members.
- Staff will add contact information for the new Conservation MN East metro representative.
- Staff will order phone holders (Pop Sockets) from Ramsey County to give away at the Expo.

e) April agenda

Include pollinator plantings, volunteer cleanup event, Adopt a Drain program, Environmental Resource Expo, Conservation MN guest, and U of M speaker on the April agenda. Commissioner Winkler plans to attend the April meeting. Commissioner's Bolstad and Johnston are not able to attend.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held at City Hall on April 17, 2019 at 6:30pm. Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. Motion carried, vote 5/0.