

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

Date: May 15, 2019	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeber (Chair), June Sinnett, Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Rick Johnston	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 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 6/0.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a) April 17, 2019 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the April 17, 2019 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

### 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### a) Downtown area recycling

Staff plans to have an initial conversation with downtown area businesses during their June board meeting to gather feedback regarding the project. Staff will report on the discussion at the June EAC meeting.

#### b) Pollinator plantings in parks

Chair Schroeber summarized his meeting with the Parks Commission about adding pollinator plants to City parks. The Parks Commission expressed interest in pursuing this next year. The commission members discussed ideas for forming a partnership with the Parks Commission, such as having a yearly joint meeting in the winter to plan for summer projects, and possibly joining the Parks Commission on their monthly park walks. Staff stated that they might also be able to collaborate with VLAWMO on restoration projects in Rotary Park. A next step for the EAC is to identify possible demo sites for a pollinator garden.

#### c) Environmental Resources Expo

Commissioner Winkler asked the commission to consider inviting the seed library to exhibit at the Expo. The seed library is located in the White Bear Library. The seed library is run by volunteers, with the goal of getting people involved in gardening. Residents can take free seeds and bring other seeds back to share. Commission members agreed to invite them to exhibit at the Expo. They also discussed if there are enough tents for an additional exhibitor, and if the seed library would be willing to share a table with the Master Gardeners. Commissioner Winkler will contact the seed library to invite them to exhibit at the Expo.

Staff mentioned that a local resident EV owner offered to display her car at the Expo. Staff also mentioned that Citizens Climate Lobby is interested in exhibiting at the Expo. Commission members are in favor of both groups attending. Staff will send out an invite. Commission members discussed giving their extra cup and cone coins to the Boy Scout volunteers.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Land and Water Conservation Fund letter of support

Commission members discussed the Land and Water Conservation Fund letter of support. Conservation Minnesota invited environmental commissions to sign a bipartisan letter to the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Congresswoman Betty McCollum, urging the Subcommittee to provide significant increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 2020. Commission members discussed the letter and agreed to sign the letter of support pending approval from Mayor Emerson. Commissioner Winkler moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnott, to sign the letter of support to Congresswoman Betty McCollum asking to provide significant increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in fiscal year 2020, and to direct staff to forward the signed letter to Conservation Minnesota. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

## 7. DISCUSSION

### a) Subcommittee updates

Chair Schroeher discussed the Ramsey County tweet regarding proper recycling of plastic bags. He expressed interest in having a poster that explains plastic bag recycling. The recycling subcommittee will look for a plastic bag poster to display at the Expo. Staff will contact Ramsey County to see if they have a poster available.

*Commission member left at 8:05pm*

### b) Staff updates

#### - MPCA Site Review

Nothing new to report. Staff will report back once the MPCA conducts their non-heating season testing.

#### - Climate Smart Municipalities

Staff reported that the German delegation is visiting Minnesota the week of June 10. The City is hosting our partner City Ludenscheid on June 11-13. The second energy steering committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12. Ludenscheid will give a presentation on their energy initiatives at the steering committee meeting. Chair Schroeher is not able to attend this meeting. Commissioner Bolstad is interested in being the alternate EAC representative.

#### - Rooftop Solar

Staff reported that the German delegation is giving a short presentation at the June 11 Council meeting and rooftop solar may be presented at the June 24 Council meeting.

#### - Adopt a drain program

Staff reported that VLAWMO ordered custom door hangers for the Goose Lake neighborhood. Volunteer groups will distribute the door hangers in targeted neighborhoods in the Goose Lake subwatershed to advertise the program. Residents in the Goose Lake subwatershed who adopt a drain will receive a customized Goose Lake information packet and yard sign. The City contributed \$500 towards the purchase of door hangers, information packets, and yard signs. VLAWMO covered the remaining cost.

c) Commission member updates

Commissioner Greene stated that he is rounding up scouts to help distribute adopt a drain door hangers in the Goose Lake subwatershed. He is working with VLAWMO to determine a date and location. Commissioner Winkler mentioned that Troup 89 might also be available to help.

Chair Schroeher summarized the presentation he attended at City Hall about renewable energy projects that Saerbeck, Germany implemented. As part of the City's partnership with Climate Smart Municipalities, Guido from Saerbeck visited for the day to discuss how Saerbeck, with a population of 7000 residents, transitioned to 100% renewable energy. The City started a steering committee made up of local businesses, farmers, residents, non-profits, faith organizations, and City staff to guide the City's renewable energy goals and implementation. In addition to individuals implementing energy conservation and solar on private properties, the City developed an energy park made up of solar, wind, and biomass plants. This energy park produces 250% of the City's energy needs.

d) Do-outs

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

- Recycling subcommittee will look for a plastic film poster to display at the Expo
- Staff will ask Ramsey County if they have a plastic film recycling poster
- Finalize all expo exhibitors by the June 19 meeting
- Commissioner Winkler will check with Boy Scout Troup 89 to see if they can help hang adopt a drain door hangers in the Goose Lake subwatershed

e) June agenda

Finalize Expo participant list

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held at City Hall on June 19, 2019 at 6:30pm. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm. Motion carried, vote 5/0.