

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: August 21, 2019	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Pam Enz, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroehner (Chair), 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 6:37 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Staff added U of M capstone project to item 7c. Staff updates. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) June 19, 2019 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the June 19, 2019 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Greene moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 6/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

The commission members introduced themselves and welcomed new member Pam Enz.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Environmental Resources Expo - recap

Chair Schroehner provided a history of the Environmental Resource Expo for Commissioner Enz. Commissioner Greenleaf asked what is the value added for the event and if it should be continued next year. The consensus was to continue the event in 2020. Commission members discussed how the event could be improved next year, including methods to get more kids to stop by the exhibit tables, how to manage wind using jugs of water to hold tents down, the possibility of each vendor bringing their own chairs, and creating an expo banner that can be hung across the street.

b) Downtown area recycling - update

Staff reported that the downtown area recycling container project is moving forward but there are a few details to work out such as the number of containers and locations and logistics regarding pick up. Commissioner Enz stated that the trash at Boatworks overflows and that Boatworks Apartment residents have been emptying the City trash containers. She also observed the sprinklers at Vets Park running at noon and while its raining.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2020 Work Plan

Commission members reviewed last year's work plan and created a list of possible goals to work towards

in 2020, including sponsoring a pollinator garden in partnership with the Ramsey County Master Gardeners, eliminating single use plastics, Shoreview water smart app, rooftop solar, organics dumpster, and microplastics filters for washing machines.

b) Fall newsletter – ideas for articles

Commission members brainstormed environmental topics to include in the fall newsletter such as the adopt a drain program, reminder about household hazardous waste, types of plastic bags that can be recycled, non-usable textile recycling through the Salvation Army and others, pollinator gardens, and the water efficiency rebate if the City is awarded the grant from Met Council. Staff suggested including the pollinator article in the spring newsletter.

7. DISCUSSION

a) Fall/winter meeting with Parks Commission

Commission members discussed scheduling a joint meeting with the Parks Commission in November to talk about current projects and to brainstorm possible collaborations. Chair Schroeher asked staff to schedule a joint meeting in November for one hour during the Park Commission regular meeting, and asked commission members to come up with priority projects prior to the meeting.

b) Topics of discussion for October meeting

Chair Schroeher stated that Council Member Edberg is invited to attend the October 16th EAC meeting, and asked all commission members to have questions prepared for Councilmember Edberg for discussion at the September EAC meeting. These questions will be emailed to Council Member Edberg prior to the October meeting.

c) Staff updates

- Water conservation grant

The City applied for another Metropolitan Council water efficiency grant. The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis.

- Goose Lake alum treatment

VLAWMO plans to apply for a Clean Water Grant this fall to help cover the cost of alum treatment for East Goose.

- Organics drop-off site

Ramsey County streamlined their organics dumpster enclosure program last year and now provide a standardized enclosure design and preselected contractor. City staff concerns over potential contamination and vandalism have temporarily slowed the project. Staff hopes to resolve any concerns and to move forward with the project, potentially at Podvin Park.

- Republic contract

The Republic contract was reviewed by staff and approved by City Council. The contract is for hauling only. Trash is brought to the County owned Newport facility for processing prior to transport to an Xcel plant where the trash is burned for electricity generation. Recycling is brought to Eureka Recycling in St Paul for processing prior to shipment to end markets. The Eureka processing contract was also recently approved by City Council.

- U of M Capstone project

U of M students are once again working with the City of White Bear Lake to report on environmental projects of interest to the City. The students will review the original reports and recommendations completed in 2014 and will reassess the recommendations and update the reports. The groups will

present full written reports and presentations to the community near the end of the semester in December.

d) Commission member updates

- Climate Smart steering committee meeting

Chair Schroeher reported that he attended the steering committee meeting earlier today. Discussions revolved around being an energy focused committee and developing an action plan.

- Propylene glycol presentation

Commissioner Winkler is proposing a community education topic pertaining to locally sold Propylene Glycol RV and watercraft antifreeze products. He expressed concern that the biodegradable labeling on the container is potentially misleading and that homeowners may think it is safe to dispose of this product onto lawns or in storm drains, instead of the sanitary sewer. Commission members thought that early spring would be the best time to educate the public on this topic.

e) Do-outs

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

- Staff to forward the date of the Volunteer Recognition Dinner to commission members

- Staff to create a nametag for Commissioner Enz

- Staff to bring U of M capstone project reports to September meeting

- Staff to contact Public Works regarding Vets Park sprinkler and trash at Boatworks

- Staff to order recycling containers for the downtown area

- Staff to schedule joint meeting in November with the Parks Commission

- Commissioners to prepare for joint meeting with the Parks Commission by creating a list of past and current projects, and future priority parks related projects. Have the list ready for discussion at the September meeting.

- Commissioner Greenleaf to find other report

- Commissioners to prepare questions for Council member Edberg prior to the September meeting

- Commissioner Enz to research clothes washer lint game

f) September agenda

Add 'Parks Commission meeting preparation' to the September agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held at City Hall on September 18, 2019 at 6:30pm. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Schroeher, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Motion carried, vote 6/0.