

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: September 18, 2019	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Gary Schroeber (Chair), Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Pam Enz, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and added prairie planting to item 7d Commission member updates. Staff added storm drain cleaning to item 7c Staff updates. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) August 21, 2019 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the August 21, 2019 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Winkler moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2020 Work Plan

Commission members continued to brainstorm possible goals for 2020. Commissioner Greene is interested promoting electric lawn equipment at the Environmental Resource Expo next year. Commissioner Bolstad would like to add renewable energy as a priority goal for 2020. Salt management education was also added to the list of goals. Commission members will continue to discuss priority goals for 2020 at the October meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

a) Topics of discussion for Council Member Edberg

Commission members compiled a list of questions for Council Member Edberg at the October 16th meeting: 1) what did you learn in Germany, 2) what are the barriers to approving rooftop solar on City buildings, 3) what environmental issues are City Council concerned about, and 4) questions regarding Water Gremlin. Chair Schroeber will email the questions to Council Member Edberg in advance of the meeting.

b) Topics of discussion for joint Parks Commission meeting

The commission members brainstormed topics of discussion for the joint meeting with the Parks Department in November. Topics of discussion include current goals and projects for each commission, and possible future joint projects such as pollinator plantings, converting landscape maintenance gas engines to electric, public space recycling, rain sensors, alternative lawns, and minimizing grass areas.

c) Staff updates

- Turf Talk, September 25

The City is hosting a VLAWMO workshop on turf research and alternatives to traditional turf grasses. Dan Sandor from the U of M Center for Turfgrass Science is giving the presentation. The workshop will be held in the City Hall Council Chamber on September 25th at 7pm.

- Organics dumpster enclosure

Staff reported that there are concerns with constructing a dumpster at Podvin Park so a new site may need to be determined. Commissioner Greenleaf is very interested in the City moving forward with this project. Staff will set up a meeting with Public Works to discuss possible locations.

- Storm drain cleaning – October 18, 19, 20

VLAWMO is organizing a stormdrain cleaning event in the Goose Lake subwatershed the weekend of October 18th. Bagged leaves from this event can be dropped off at Public Works and Lakeaires Elementary. The City's Public Works staff will pick up the bags of leaves after the event and bring them to a yard waste facility.

d) Commission member updates

- Climate steering committee meeting

Chair Schroeher gave an update on the Climate Smart Steering Committee meeting held at City Hall on September 11th. Staff presented data about existing CO2 emissions in the City and showed examples of goals from other Climate Action Plans. Members of the steering committee then met in small groups to brainstorm overall goals for the City.

- Prairie Planting

Chair Schroeher reported that Saint Anthony Village is adding pollinator plantings to public, residential, and commercial properties. As part of this initiative, an interactive map was created that shows the location of each pollinator planting along with a photo of the site. Chair Schroeher asked staff to show the map at the October meeting and include a pollinator map in the work plan as a proposed goal for 2020.

Commission member left at 8:21pm

e) Do-outs

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

- Staff to send Chair Schroeher the questions for Council Member Edberg
- Show the St Anthony pollinator map at the October meeting
- Show the WBLHS winning video at a future meeting

f) October agenda

Add the County E and Bellaire testing update and joint Parks Commission meeting discussion on the October agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held at City Hall on October 16, 2019 at 6:30pm. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Winkler, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Motion carried, vote 3/0.