

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: December 18, 2019	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf , Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeder (Chair)	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Robert Winkler	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS		
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 had no changes. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) November 21, 2019 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the November 21, 2019 draft minutes and directed staff to change 'Commissioner Schroeder' to 'commission members' in Item 5a) 2020 Work Plan, and add the location and chemical that is being tested in MPCA update under Item 7b) Staff updates. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to approve the November 21, 2019 minutes as amended. Motion carried, vote 5/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2020 Work Plan

Commission members reviewed the list of goals on the draft work plan and removed goals that are the now the focus of the Climate Smart Municipalities steering committee. The organics drop off site and the rebates for water sense toilets were also removed from the list because these projects are underway. The commission members discussed priority goals for 2020 including Adopt-a-Drain promotion, downtown recycling containers, pollinator plantings on City property, demo battery powered lawn equipment at the Expo, Expo banner and weights for tents, zero waste City events, converting gas powered equipment to battery for both City and private residents, and highlighting resident environmental achievements in the newsletter.

Commission member left at 8:00pm

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Pollinator plantings

Staff presented the meeting notes from the joint Parks Commission and Environmental Advisory Commission meeting held on November 21, 2019. The commission members had no changes. The commission members brainstormed ideas for pollinator plantings on City property. The ideas discussed include creating a map showing the location of existing pollinator planting sites, designing and planting a demonstration garden, and adding information about pollinator gardens in the spring newsletter.

Commission members discussed existing resources and suggested visiting the Saint Anthony Village website for information on their St. Anthony Pollinator Pathway program and researching the Monarch Weigh Station program. The 2020 work plan will be adopted at the February meeting.

7. DISCUSSION

a) Lawns to Legumes program

Staff updated the commission members on a Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program request for proposals. Cities, Counties, watershed districts, and non-governmental organizations can apply. The goal of the program is to increase populations of rusty patched bumble bees and other at risk pollinators. A map showing locations where Rusty Patched Bumble Bees may be present includes a portion of the City from the south shore of White Bear Lake to Lakewood Hills Park. Staff will discuss if the City will pursue this grant for projects in neighborhoods near Lakewood Hills Park.

b) Earth Day – 50th Anniversary

Staff stated that April 22, 2019 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and asked the commission members to brainstorm possible projects or events for this day.

c) Staff updates

- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant

Staff reported that the City received a grant for \$26,300 from the Metropolitan Council through funding from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. The grant will enable the City to provide rebates to public water utility customers who replace existing toilets with WaterSense toilets. The rebate is up to \$200 for out of pocket costs for a replacement toilet but does not include installation costs. Staff will email the commission members when the grant funding is available.

- Goose Lake

Staff reported that the VLAWMO board voted on December 11, 2019 to rescind the recommendation to the City to temporarily restrict boating after an alum treatment on East Goose Lake. The VLAWMO Board supports the science behind the recommendation and wishes to foster collaboration rather than conflict among neighbors and agencies.

- VLAWMO remote camera and frog surveys

Staff shared the results of VLAWMO remote camera surveys and frog and toad monitoring in Rotary Nature Preserve. A camera located south of the boardwalk in the wetland area captured Mink, Raccoon, Great Blue Heron, Sandhill Crane, and Wood Ducks. The frog and toad survey results indicate that the site supports strong populations of frogs and toads. A total of 6 species were detected. These animal surveys help to determine the health of the habitat and restoration needs.

d) Commission member updates

None

e) Do-outs

- Staff to contact the WBLHS Environmental Club faculty leader to ask about recruiting a student EAC delegate.
- Staff to email the commission members a link to the following Council meeting videos: first reading of the Goose Lake boating ordinance and the Climate Smart Municipalities presentation.
- Staff to email commission members the starting date of the water efficiency rebate.
- Staff to email commission members a link to the U of M Capstone project reports when available.
- Commissioner Johnston to research compostable products.

f) January agenda

Include the Shoreview water conservation program on the January agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held at City Hall on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:30pm. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. Motion carried, vote 4/0.