



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on May 17, 2023
- 4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None
- 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. 2023 Work Plan
 - B. Environmental Resources Expo
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. None
- 7. DISCUSSION**
 - A. No Mow May Alternatives
 - B. Staff updates
 - Reappointments
 - C. Commission member updates
 - D. Do-outs
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: June 16, 2023
Subject: Action Items for June 21, 2023 EAC Meeting

Agenda item 5A. 2023 Work Plan

The final 2023 work plan is attached. The Parks Commission is interested in partnering with the EAC to identify locations for pollinator plantings/restoration. Each Park Commission member is assigned two or three parks to inspection in the summer months. The EAC is invited to attend these inspections for the purpose of locating potential pollinator project locations and identifying areas of invasive species.

Action: Continue to visit parks with Parks Commission members to look for opportunities to remove invasive species and install pollinator plantings. At the June meeting, consider providing a brief update on any site visits that have been completed, and brainstorm ideas on how best to summarize results of the site visits.

Agenda item 5B. Environmental Resources Expo

The 2023 Environmental Resources Expo is scheduled for July 27, 2023 on the last night of Marketfest. The exhibitor list has been updated with the latest invitation responses.

Expo Ideas

- Chair Schroeder suggests a sign-up sheet at the Expo for those interested in volunteering to remove buckthorn.
- Create a banner for electric lawn equipment
- Ideas for games
- Purchase seed packets or other items as giveaways/game prizes

Action: Report on exhibitor responses to invitations, and discuss the ideas listed above. Consider whether or not to have a July EAC meeting.

Agenda Item 7A. No Mow May Alternative

At the May meeting, Member Greenleaf asked Taillon to add a discussion item about No Mow May to the June agenda. This is in response to Member Luxford's email and the links he provided, below. Based on the information in these links, Member Luxford suggests promoting

raising the mower deck height in lieu of not mowing at all, whether or not the city promotes the 'No Mow May' initiative.

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/what-not-mowing-may-could-mean-your-lawn>

<https://apnews.com/article/gardening-no-mow-may-lawns-6aa1669b9e9bb5b5d8ea671c44d186f2>

Agenda Item 7B. EAC Reappointments

Chair Schroeder and Member Greene's terms expire on June 30th this year. Both have been reappointed for another three year term.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Frye, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Jeff Luxford, Gary Schroeher (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Rick Johnston

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Luxford** seconded by member **Greene**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on April 19, 2023.

The commission members reviewed the draft April 19, 2023 meeting minutes and had the following changes:

Item 5A, first sentence after the bullet points: change 'member' to 'members'.

Item 5A, third sentence after the bullet points: delete the phrase 'or employers from H.B. Fuller'.

It was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 5:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2023 work plan

Member Greenleaf thanked the commission members who attended the joint meeting with the Parks Commission to discuss possible partnership opportunities to remove invasives and restore native plant communities. Member Greene reported that there was positive feedback from the Parks Commission with interest in partnering. At the joint meeting, a Parks Commission member suggested that a member of the Environmental Advisory Commission get paired with a Parks Commission member to join them as they inspect their respective parks. This will provide an opportunity to identify areas of each park for invasive species removal and possible restoration, and to take photos of these areas. The goal this fall is to mark these potential locations on a map and create a restoration plan that will include project locations, timelines, and budgets.

The commission members discussed which Parks Commission Member to contact:

- Chair Schroeher will contact Member Belisle to visit Ebba Park, Hidden Hollow Park, and Lakeview Park; and Member G. Davis to visit West Park, Memorial Beach, and Lakewood Hills Park
- Member Greenleaf will contact Member A. Davis to visit Railroad Park, Stellmacher Park, and Ramaley Park
- Member Greene will contact Member Ganzlin to visit Spruce Park, Bossard Park, and Veterans Memorial Park
- Member Luxford will contact Member Biehn to visit Podvin Park and Jack Yost Park
- Member Frye will contact Member Cermak to visit Rotary Nature Preserve, McCarty Park, and Weyerhauser Park
- Member Bolstad and Member Johnston can contact Member Shepard to visit Lions Park and Matoska Park.

Chair Schroeher noted to contact your Parks Commission representative soon, and to email the other EAC members to find an alternate if you are not able to attend a site visit.

B. Environmental Resources Expo

The commission members each provided an update on their exhibitor invitations. Member Greene stated that he invited one EV owner so far and plans to contact the car dealers. Taillon reported for Member Bolstad that Tamarack Nature Center and League of Women Voters will attend. Member Luxford reported that NE Metro Climate action will attend. Taillon reported that Pollinator Friendly Alliance will attend, and she is waiting to hear back from Vадnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, White Bear Lake Conservation District, and the AV shuttle. For the EAC table, Chair Schroeher would like to have a sign-up sheet for individuals interested in volunteering for buckthorn removal or other environmental events. He is also interested in displaying a QR code that would link to environmental pages on the City's website.

Taillon mentioned that a for-profit solar company contacted her with an interest in exhibiting at the Expo. Member Luxford thinks that a for-profit company might be a better fit as part of Marketfest. The other commission members agreed. Taillon will contact the solar company to encourage them to apply as a vendor at Marketfest.

Commission members discussed making a larger sign for the electric lawn equipment display. Member Greene volunteered to design a sign.

The commission members discussed other possible giveaway items instead of native seed packs, such as reusable bags. The commission members will research products for a giveaway and decide at the June meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- Rotary Nature Preserve phase 2 restoration and Birch Lake Elementary School field day

Taillon stated that the field day went well. Over the course of two half days, all students at Birch Lake Elementary rotated between four stations led by Rotary Club members and staff from VLAWMO and the City, including a nature hike, macroinvertebrate station, prairie planting, and weeding.

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MSA
Taillon reported that Metropolitan Council is taking the lead on the metropolitan climate planning initiative and that all municipalities within this area will be included as partners in the plan.

B. Commission member updates

- White Bear Lake Magazine pollinator article

Chair Schroeher noted that the EAC's pollinator pathways map article is published in the White Bear Lake Magazine. Taillon mentioned that a longer version of the article is posted on the magazines website at whitebearlakemag.com.

- Lake study project

Chair Schroeher reported that the U of M is looking for volunteers to assist with a lake study project for three lakes: Phalen, Owasso, and White Bear Lake. If interested, sign up at the link provided in the email sent to the commission members on April 27th.

Member Greenleaf mentioned that she attended the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program presentation at the April 25th City Council meeting. Taillon presented on 2022 stormwater activities.

Chair Schroeder reported that he will give a presentation to a Rotary training group about EAC activities.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for May 17, 2023 include:

- Environmental Advisory Commission members to contact respective Parks Commission members to coordinate park site visits.
- Environmental Advisory Commission members to determine items for Expo giveaway by June EAC meeting.
- Member Greene to design electric lawn equipment sign.

D. June agenda

Commission members discussed the June agenda items. Member Greenleaf asked Taillon to add a discussion about No Mow May on the June agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Frye** seconded by member **Greenleaf** to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0

DRAFT

Environmental Advisory Commission 2023 Work Plan

Month	Recurrent Agenda Items	Activities/Events /Speakers
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • Priority goal(s) planning 	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring newsletter articles • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals • National Mayor’s Water Challenge • Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Environmental Resource Expo, July 27
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall newsletter articles • 2024 Work Plan 	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Work Plan • Volunteer Recognition Dinner slide show ideas 	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Work Plan • Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair • Joint workshop planning 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Work Plan • Joint workshop planning 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve 2024 Work Plan • Joint workshop planning 	Holiday Treats

High Priority Goals for 2023

- ‘Reduce recycling contamination’ education grant availability
- Pollinator plantings
- Solar on buildings
- Buckthorn removal

Ongoing initiatives

- Recycling containers: waiting for County
- Downtown Revitalization Project
 - EV chargers
 - Boulevard trees
- Zero Waste Events
- Promote electric lawn equipment

Joint work session notes – Jan 2023

Mayor comments:

- Water conservation a priority
- Not interested in a local single use bag ban/charge
- Helpful to create a plan assigning priorities and costs to pollinator/native plantings in collaboration with Parks Commission

Councilmember Walsh comments:

- He was at a National Night out near Dillion Ditch and was wondering if we could look into pollinator plantings at that location.
- What about pollinator plantings at Bossard Park on the sloped areas.

Review GreenStep Cities website: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>

Climate Smart Municipalities topics for Steering Committee

- Community solar and solar panels on City buildings
- Charge for plastic bags
- Single use plastics
- Climate change resolution
- Partner with Xcel Energy for Projects
- Air quality-lawn equipment (City and private)
- Energy focus, specifically renewables

Ramsey County Solid Waste Master Plan topics

- Curbside collection of bulky items for recycling
- Inclusion of small businesses in City recycling service
- Textile recycling (curbside, special collection, or drop-off) – required by 2019

MS4 Permit topics

- Salt management education
- Dog waste
- Other stormwater topics