



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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 November 15, 2023

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Joint work session presentation, Tuesday, January 16, 2024
- B. Park maps

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. June 2024 EAC meeting date
- B. 2024 Draft Work Plan

7. DISCUSSION

- A. Parking lot deicing
- B. Staff updates
- C. Commission member updates
- D. Do-outs
- E. January agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: December 13, 2023
Subject: **Action Items for December 20, 2023 EAC Meeting**

Agenda item 5A. Joint work session presentation

The joint work session with City Council and City commissions is scheduled for January 16, 2024. The location has not yet been determined. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of 2023 accomplishments, and initiatives planned in 2024. The EAC will have the first time slot from 6 to 6:30pm for a verbal presentation (no presentation slides) and Q&A.

Action: Finalize discussion points for the following 2024 priorities:

- 1) Pollinator and buckthorn removal projects including possible demonstration gardens
- 2) Downtown tree planting/tree trenches
- 3) Water conservation
- 4) Electrify city equipment

Agenda item 5B. Park maps

The draft park maps, showing your invasive species removal and restoration project idea locations, will be at the December meeting for review (the maps are too large to email).

Action: review your respective park map(s) at the meeting and provide comments.

Agenda item 6A. June 2024 EAC meeting date

Juneteenth is now a city holiday and it lands on the same day as your June 2024 EAC meeting.

Action: Decide on an alternative meeting date for the June 2024 EAC meeting

Agenda item 6B. 2024 Draft Work Plan

The draft 2024 work plan is included in the December agenda packet.

Action: Review the draft 2024 work plan and discuss priority goals for 2024.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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 6:37 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston (Vice Chair), Jeff Luxford, Gary Schroeher (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Frye, Chris Greene

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 **Johnston** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried, 4:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on September 20, 2023. The commission members reviewed the draft September 20, 2023 meeting minutes and had the following changes: Item 5A, 2023 work plan – park visit reports, second paragraph, delete the sentence “For example, how we will know when there are enough pollinator gardens.”; Item 7B, discussion, delete the 7th sentence “Preliminary results show that parking may not be an issue.”, 8th sentence delete the phrase “which is in line with the EAC priorities.” and add the sentence “There are plans for charging stations, but there is some resistance to the tree cover that the EAC would like to see due to issues with underground utilities and tree maintenance.” before this deletion.

It was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.

Motion carried, 4:0.

B. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on October 18, 2023. The commission members reviewed the draft October 18, 2023 meeting minutes and had the following change: Item 7B, Commission member updates, delete the sentence “A parking study concluded that there is no shortage of parking in the downtown area” and

replace with “The study indicated that parking is not a serious issue as long as people are willing to walk one or two blocks.”

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Johnston**, to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.

Motion carried, 4:0.

Member Luxford arrived at 6:53pm

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Tobias Davis, a new resident of White Bear Lake, was in attendance to learn more about the City. The commission members introduced themselves and welcomed him to the community.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Joint work session presentation

Taillon noted that the joint work session with the City commissions and City Council is scheduled for January 16, 2024. The Environmental Advisory Commission is scheduled from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of accomplishments for 2023 and to discuss 2024 priorities. Taillon stated that she will prepare a staff report to City Council highlighting 2023 accomplishments and what’s to come in 2024, which is due on January 10, 2024. The commission members brainstormed ideas for 2024 priority projects. Member Luxford mentioned that the commission should stay focused on specific topics when discussing 2024 priorities at the meeting. Ideas for 2024 projects include:

- Buckthorn removal events
- City electric vehicles
- EV charging stations
- Electrify lawn equipment policy, similar to the zero waste policy
- Downtown tree planting/tree trenches
- Park Commission joint restoration project planning and implementation
- Water conservation

The commission members chose their top 4 priorities from the brainstorm list to discuss at the joint work session: 1) pollinator and buckthorn removal projects including possible demonstration gardens, 2) downtown tree planting/tree trenches, 3) water conservation, and 4) electrify city equipment. At the 2023 joint work session, the Mayor stated that water conservation is a priority. The commission members discussed types of projects that might reduce water use. In addition to rebates for water saving appliances and toilets, policy changes such as charging more for water, enforcing the watering ban, and revising the weed law to allow for lawn replacement with draught tolerant native plants could be considered. In addition to the commission’s 2024 priorities, they also want to ask the Mayor and City Council what initiatives they would like to see the Environmental Advisory Commission focus on in 2024.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission Officer Election, Chair and Vice Chair – *Action item*

Member Bolstad nominated Chair Schroeher to remain as the chair and member Johnston to remain as vice chair for 2024. Both accepted the nominations.

It was moved by member **Bolstad** seconded by member **Greenleaf** to appoint chair Schroeher as chair and member Johnston as vice chair in 2024.

Motion carried, 5:0.

B. 2024 Draft Work Plan

Chair Schroeher requested that this agenda item discussion be postponed until the December meeting because two members are absent.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

Taillon reported that the polo shirts are in stock and ordered, and to bring treats to the December meeting.

B. Commission member updates

Chair Schroeher would like to invite Metro Blooms to a future Environmental Advisory Commission meeting as part of the demonstration garden discussion.

Vice-chair Johnston would like to have the option to meet virtually, but he said that the audio is a challenge. Taillon stated that she will look into having a microphone on the table.

Taillon noted that she will compile the park maps and site visit notes for the commission members review at the December meeting. Member Bolstad requested that Taillon contact those that have not submitted their reports to do so before the December meeting.

Member Greenleaf thanked the commission members for being kind to her guest Tom at the Board and Commissions Recognition Banquet. She also mentioned that someone at the event wanted to talk with her about a raingarden that had been completed by the City. Taillon will follow up with him. Member Luxford was not able to attend the banquet, so Taillon will bring a gift blanket for him at the December meeting.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for November 15, 2023 include:

- Taillon to prepare a draft memo for the City Council workshop for review by the December Environmental Advisory Commission meeting.
- Taillon to prepare draft invasive species and restoration location maps for review at the December commission meeting.

- Taillon to bring a volunteer recognition blanket for member Luxford
- Taillon to contact members who have not submitted their park visit reports.
- Members to bring treats to the December meeting

D. December agenda

Commission members asked Taillon to add the joint work session presentation, draft 2024 work plan, and park maps to the December agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Bolstad** to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0

DRAFT

Environmental Advisory Commission 2024 Work Plan - DRAFT

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 	Schedule tour of R&E facility at a date TBD
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 Fall newsletter articles 	Environmental Resource Expo, July 31?
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Work Plan Environmental Resource Expo Recap 	
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 	Volunteer recognition dinner
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