



**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024  
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Chair Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Frye, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Jeff Luxford

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gary Schroeher (Chair)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

**VISITORS PRESENT:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The commission members reviewed the agenda and added 'Low waste subcommittee update' to item 7B. Commission Member Updates.

It was moved by member **Luxford** seconded by member **Frye**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried, 5:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on June 12, 2024.

The commission members reviewed the draft June 12, 2024 meeting minutes and had the following change: last sentence in Item 2. Approval of Agenda, change 'member' to 'members'.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Luxford**, to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

Motion carried, 5:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. 2024 Environmental Resources Expo

Member Greene noted that three EV's have confirmed: the WB Press van, a Tesla Model Y, and a Ford Mustang Mach E. Taillon mentioned that a Cybertruck may also be there, but it is not confirmed yet. Member Greene stated that one boy scout has signed up to

help with tent setup, and he is hoping for 4 total. Member Greenleaf stated that the Master Gardeners have confirmed. Taillon will finalize the exhibitor map and email the maps to the Marketfest coordinator for her review and approval. Once approved, Taillon will email the map and detailed exhibitor instructions to the commission members for them to forward to their respective contacts.

The commission member brainstormed questions for the Prize Drop game. There are four colors with the game, and each color will represent a category. The questions will be on a sheet of paper and color coded for each category. The commission members will continue to add questions to the Google docs that Member Bolstad will create.

B. Electric equipment survey

For the sake of time, Member Luxford asked to table this agenda item until next month.

C. Buckthorn removal event

Taillon reported that the restrooms at Lakewood Hills close on October 15th, and possibly earlier if the weather is unseasonably cold. Commission members discussed setting a buckthorn removal date prior to restroom closure and before MEA week, which is October 18-20. The tentative buckthorn removal date discussed is Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fall newsletter articles

Taillon stated that fall newsletter articles are due August 9<sup>th</sup>. Commission members asked to include Adopt-a-Drain, buckthorn removal volunteer sign-up, and the recycling graphic in the fall newsletter.

## 7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

Taillon mentioned that she will report on curbside mattress collection totals at next month's meeting. She reported that a new commission member will be appointed soon.

B. Commission member updates

- Low waste subcommittee update

Member Bolstad reported that her and Member Greenleaf met with the Marketfest coordinator, Lisa Beecroft, on June 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss ideas for making Marketfest a low/zero waste event. There are 50 food vendors, with 15 of these that sell packaged food that is not consumed onsite. There will be fewer Marketfest dates in 2025 because of the parking lot resurfacing project, so Lisa mentioned that 2025 might be a good year to try implement low/zero waste. She suggested finding suppliers for certified compostable containers, working on messaging low/zero waste in the WB Press and at a Marketfest booth, and looking for sponsors.

Lisa stated that there are 20 to 23 trash and recycling stations at Marketfest each week, with staff coordination by Frank, one of the Marketfest volunteers. Public Works provides bins and arranges with the hauler for drop off and pick up. Large numbers of low/zero waste volunteers would be needed to monitor that many stations, so commission members discussed the possibility of reducing the number of stations or consolidating the locations. They suggested reaching out to Frank to get his feedback. The group also discussed budget needs for bins, marketing, signage, and vests, and to look into possible grants to help cover the cost. The commission members suggested discussing this topic at the joint Council workshop in January.

Member Greenleaf stated that she attended a recent Marketfest and looked in the trash and recycling bins. She found that the trash was full, and the recycling was almost empty. There were recyclable plastic water bottles in the trash.

Member Bolstad noted that the subcommittee will meet again in July and November.

- Member Greenleaf reported that her church plans to install ground mount solar. Their project will be on the August planning commission agenda.

#### C. Do-outs

New do-out items for July 17, 2024 include:

- Taillon to finalize exhibitor map with Marketfest coordinator and email map and exhibitor details to commission members.
- Commission members and staff to send exhibitor information to their respective contacts.
- Member Bolstad to send Google Docs link to members
- All members to add questions and answers to Google docs

#### D. August agenda

Commission members asked Taillon to add the electric equipment survey, buckthorn removal event, and mattress collection update on the August agenda.

### 8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Luxford** seconded by member **Greene** to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0