



**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 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, Bonnie Greenleaf, Jeff Luxford, Gary Schroeher (Chair)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris Greene, Rick Johnston (Vice Chair)

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Taillon stated that Member Luxford will join the meeting around 7pm and that he has changes to the draft meeting minutes. She asked to move the meeting minutes after item 5 to allow time for Member Luxford to arrive. Commission members agreed to the change.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Bolstad**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried, 4:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. 2024 Environmental Resources Expo**

The commission members reviewed the exhibitor list. Member Greenleaf will contact Ramsey County Master Gardeners to confirm their attendance. Taillon will contact Member Greene to get an update on the status of the Boy Scout volunteers and electric cars. When asked about the final email to exhibitors, Taillon stated that she will finalize the exhibit map with the Marketfest coordinator and draft email language with instructions to bring their own chair and that a tent and table will be provided.

*Member Luxford arrived at 6:58 pm.*

Commission members agreed to purchase the tabletop prize drop game that was discussed at the previous meeting, and up to 30 native seed packets for prizes. Taillon will count the number of seed packets remaining from last year and order additional

packets to bring the total to 30.

It was moved by member **Bolstad** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to purchase a table top prize drop game and up to 30 seed packets for a total cost not to exceed \$250 from the Environmental Advisory Commission budget.

Motion carried, 5:0.

B. Electric equipment survey

Commission members discussed questions to include in the survey, and which cities to send the survey. Member Frye stated that the survey questions should provide useful information to City Council. He also asked about a timeline. Chair Schroeher suggested that answers to the survey questions be received prior to the January joint work session with Council. Commission members suggested sending the survey to the Public Works Departments in Roseville, Woodbury, Maplewood, Mahtomedi, Stillwater, St. Louis Park, Minnetonka, Lino Lakes, Plymouth, Shoreview, Arden Hills, Burnsville, and Elk River.

C. Buckthorn removal event

Chair Schroeher noted that the fall buckthorn event is on the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) agenda. He will work with his contact at RWMWD to set a date for the event, probably sometime in October. Taillon will check with Public Works to see when the restrooms are shut down for the year and to consider this when setting the date. Member Bolstad suggested adding the cost to revegetate and maintain the cleared area to the 2025 budget.

D. Marketfest low/zero waste event subcommittee

Member Bolstad reported that she, Member Greenleaf, and Member Greene met recently to discuss steps toward making Marketfest a zero (or low) waste event. During the meeting they created an outline of points to consider for creating a zero waste plan for Marketfest such as when to start, what should be collected (food waste only or food waste and compostable vendor products), sources of compostable products, who will dispose of the collected material, and who will pay for the disposal. The subcommittee is considering waiting until next year to start compostable collection when the event is shortened to accommodate parking lot renovations. The subcommittee also recommends that volunteers oversee each waste station to reduce contamination. With the current number of waste stations at Marketfest, it was determined that 280 volunteer shifts are needed for all 7 events. There was further discussion about the possibility of limiting the number of waste stations to reduce the need for volunteers and coordination. Member Bolstad will schedule a follow-up meeting with the Marketfest coordinator and provide an update at a future meeting.

## 5.5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on May 15, 2024.
- The commission members reviewed the draft May 15, 2024 meeting minutes and had the following changes: Item 5D, second sentence of paragraph 2, change 'Green' to 'Greene'; Item D, fourth paragraph, change the second and third sentence to 'There was a lot of contamination that resulted in fines so the hauler church stopped offering food scraps pickup at their location. There is not now a sign-up sheet for volunteers to monitor the food scraps bins.'; item 7B, first sentence of paragraph 1, change 'is not running for reappointment' to 'declined reappointment'; Item 7B, last sentence of paragraph 3, change 'Laxford's' to 'Luxford's'; Item 7C, second bullet point, for clarification change 'forbs' to 'flowering plants'.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Bolstad**, to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

Motion carried, 5:0.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. None

## 7. DISCUSSION

- A. Staff updates
- Oak Knoll Pond spent lime project  
Taillon reported that of May 24<sup>th</sup>, 13 of 22 loads of spent lime have been applied to Oak Knoll Pond. All 8 deep loads and 5 of 14 shallow loads have been applied.
  - Textile collection pilot  
Taillon noted that the City partnered with Ramsey County and Retold Recycling to provide textile recycling at the City's spring cleanup day. This is a pilot program for Ramsey County, with 3 Cities participating. Roseville collected 2,237 pounds and White Bear Lake collected 1,773 pounds of textiles at their cleanup.
  - Curbside mattress collection  
Taillon reported that the City is partnering with Ramsey County and Second Chance Recycling to offer free curbside mattress collection for City residents on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of June. The mattresses are collected by Second Chance Recycling, disassembled, and the components recycled. Ramsey County provided funds for this pilot project with the goal of keeping mattresses out of the trash. Two neighboring communities are also participating. For the first June pickup, 40 mattresses were collected in White Bear Lake, 16 mattresses were collected in White Bear Township, and 3 mattresses were collected in Birchwood Village.

- HHW mobile collection

Taillon announced that a Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste mobile site is at South Campus on Fridays and Saturdays during the month of June.

#### B. Commission member updates

Chair Schroeher mentioned that an article in the Star Tribune stated that by 2032, almost everything purchased will come in ecofriendly packaging.

Member Greenleaf stated she attended the Public Works open house and that it was a great event.

Member Bolstad asked for a status of the joint restoration plan progress with the Park Advisory Commission. Taillon stated that the discussion will continue in the fall after the Park Advisory Commission summer park tours are complete. Member Bolstad asked Taillon to consider a 2025 budget item for a restoration project identified in the plan. Taillon noted that the Rotary Nature Preserve wetland restoration is included in the draft 2025 budget.

Chair Schroeher reported that he attended the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Waterfest event on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The event is held around Lake Phalen each year and is very well attended. Numerous organizations exhibited at the event, and there were activities including canoe rides, fishing, and a native plant giveaway.

#### C. Do-outs

New do-out items for June 12, 2024 include:

- Taillon to email Member Greene for an update on the car exhibits and Boy Scout volunteers.
- Taillon to order game, and up to 30 seed packets for the Expo.
- Taillon to submit Expo map to Marketfest coordinator.
- Chair Schroeher to finalize a date for the Buckthorn removal with RWMWD.
- Taillon to ask PW when park restrooms are closed down in the fall.

#### D. July agenda

The commission members decided to hold a July meeting prior to the Expo. Chair Schroeher asked each commission member to let Taillon know if they will not be able to attend the July meeting so the meeting can be cancelled if need be.

### 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 8:28 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0