



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
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**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on June 12, 2024
- 4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None
- 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. 2024 Environmental Resources Expo
 - B. Electric equipment survey
 - C. Buckthorn removal event
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Fall newsletter articles
- 7. DISCUSSION**
 - A. Staff updates
 - B. Commission member updates
 - C. Do-outs
 - D. August agenda
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: July 12, 2024
Subject: Action Items for July 17, 2024 EAC Meeting

Agenda item 5A. 2024 Environmental Resources Expo

The exhibitor map was emailed to the Marketfest coordinator on July 12th for her review. Once she approves the map, detailed instructions can be emailed to the exhibitors.

Action: Finalize prize drop game questions, Boy Scout volunteers, and electric cars. Email exhibitors detailed information by July 19th. Staff will provide language and maps for the email.

Agenda item 5B. Electric equipment survey

Included in the July agenda packet is a draft Public Works survey.

Action: Continue drafting the survey questions. Plan to have survey responses back by the January joint work session.

Agenda item 5C. Buckthorn removal event

Included in the July agenda packet are draft notes for the buckthorn removal event planning. The park restrooms close on October 15th every year, but if the weather is exceptionally cold, the restrooms may shut down earlier.

Action: Continue planning for a fall buckthorn removal event at Lakewood Hills Park. Choose an event date and rain date. Consider holding the event while the bathrooms are still open.

Agenda item 6A. Fall Newsletter

The fall newsletter articles are due on August 9th. The following environmental themed articles are planned: toilet rebate, update on Oak Knoll Pond spent lime and Rotary projects, spotlight on sustainability, medicine drop box, yard waste disposal, smart salting, fall cleanup day, food scraps collection, tree light recycling.

Action: Brainstorm ideas for additional fall newsletter articles.



**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 member 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 24th, 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 1st. 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

Good Morning,

My name is Jeff Luxford and I am writing to you as a member of White Bear Lake's Environmental Advisory Commission. We are an appointed group of citizens that educates and encourages the city government and area residents to operate in a more environmentally-friendly manner. We will be asking the city's Department of Public Works to adopt a policy that prioritizes electrified (battery-powered) equipment when they purchase new or replacement equipment when it is practical to do so. We understand our experiences with this type of equipment as individual homeowners differ from the usage patterns and functionality demands that the Public Works department will have, so we are first contacting other Public Works departments in the area to gather information.

- 1) Does your department have a policy regarding the adoption or use of electrified (battery powered) equipment? Does the department currently have any electrified equipment? If so, we would appreciate any positive, negative, or neutral feedback to the following questions:
- 2) Does your department have any equipment that wouldn't be owned by a homeowner (e.g. road marking equipment)?
- 3) Overall, how would you compare the performance of electric equipment compared to similar gasoline/diesel equipment?
- 4) What has been worker reaction to using electric equipment?
- 5) What factors were considered when deciding on the brand of equipment to purchase? As battery packs tend to be exclusive to a particular manufacturer, do you have light-duty equipment from multiple brands?
- 6) Based on your experiences, do you expect to reduce, maintain, or expand the amount of electric equipment in your department in the future?
- 7) Would you be willing to discuss the subject with someone from the White Bear Lake Public Works department if they wanted to contact you directly?

“Buckthorn Busting” Volunteer Event Notes - DRAFT

Supplies

Public Works

- 2 to 3 buckthorn pullers
- Pesticide application
- Cut large buckthorn

Volunteers

- Gloves
- Hand cutters (pruning shears, loppers, etc.)

Possible Partners

- RWMWD staff and volunteers
- Master gardeners
- City volunteer list

Notes

- Only City staff to treat stumps with herbicide
- No chain saws or other motorized tools
- Volunteers to stack buckthorn in piles for PW to pick up
- Start at the bench on the N side of Hanlo's Pond and work on both sides. Also clear in wetland area near this bench.
- Consider planting natives in cleared areas
- Consider removing the trees with berries first
- Leave the large buckthorn for PW to cut

To Do

- Create map with the area to clear circled
- Talk to RWMWD regarding a maintenance grant
- Coordinate the large buckthorn removal with PW prior to or after the volunteer event
- Snacks
- Waiver
- Determine minimum age limit
- Ask PW when restroom as closed for the year
- Get cost estimate from NST to seeding and maintenance

Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

Expo

- Finalize Exhibitors: Wild Ones, RC Master Gardeners, EVs
- Finalize Boy Scout volunteers
- Email details to exhibitors by July 19th

Electric lawn equipment

- Create a draft survey and email list of Cities. Have survey responses by the joint meeting with City Council in January

Buckthorn removal event

- Continue planning a buckthorn removal event
- Gary to finalize a date for the Buckthorn removal with Paul at RWMWD
- Gary to contact YMCA about buckthorn removal

Marketfest low/zero waste

- Zero waste subcommittee to create a zero waste 'to do' list and prioritize
 - Zero waste best practices brochure
 - Certified compostable product supplier list
 - Research other zero waste events
 - Determine hauler cost and seek grant funding
 - Mtg with Parks Department to discuss logistics
- Gary to follow up with the Marketfest Coordinator on her correspondence with food vendors regarding their feedback on zero waste
- Gary to talk to Mill City Market

Other

- Review GreenStep Cities best practices and tailor 2024 work plan items with this program
- Add GSC numbers to Google doc
- Gary to invite Metro Blooms to a future meeting
- Gary offered to lead the 'reduce recycling contamination' work plan item

Staff

Expo

- ~~- Finalize Expo map and submit to Marketfest coordinator~~
- Email Chris G. to finalize electric cars and Boy Scout volunteers
- Email maps and instructions
- ~~- Order tabletop game~~
- ~~- Check the number of remaining seed packets and order more forbs to get the total to 30~~
- Bring remaining cup and cone coins to July meeting
- Make volunteer sign up poster with QR code

Electric lawn equipment

- Research MPCA electric lawn equipment grant

Buckthorn removal event

- Ask NST about seeding Hanlo's Pond
- Research waiver
- Ask Parks Dept when restrooms close in the fall.

Marketfest low/zero waste

- Set up a meeting with Parks Department to discuss Marketfest trash and recycling logistics (wait to hear from subcommittee)

Natural Resources Plan

- Revise park maps and send to all EAC and PAC members by fall
- Draft a restoration implementation plan by fall

Other

- Highlight environmental related items from the zoning code for a future discussion.
- Research if the City has a policy regarding recycling in public spaces
- Look into recycling cart stickers
- Ask about starting a fall Trash to Treasure day
- Email air quality sensor info to Public Works
- Schedule tour of R&E facility at a date TBD
- Add AIS ID information to the website