



**AGENDA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**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**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on May 15, 2024

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. 2024 Environmental Resources Expo
- B. Electric equipment survey
- C. Buckthorn removal event
- D. Marketfest low/zero waste event subcommittee report

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. None

**7. DISCUSSION**

- A. Staff updates
  - Oak Knoll spent lime pilot project
  - Textile collection pilot
  - Curbside mattress collection
  - HHW Mobile Collection
- B. Commission member updates
- C. Do-outs
- D. July agenda

**8. ADJOURNMENT**



**City of White Bear Lake**  
Engineering Department

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Environmental Advisory Commission  
**From:** Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist  
**Date:** June 7, 2024  
**Subject:** Action Items for June 12, 2024 EAC Meeting

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**Agenda item 5A. 2024 Environmental Resources Expo**

Included in the June agenda packet is the latest Environmental Resources Expo exhibitor list and draft 2024 Expo map.

*Action:* Review the spreadsheet at the meeting and provide updates on invitations, including the number of electric cars. Finalize prizes for the EAC exhibit table, and Expo map.

Consider making a motion to approve expenditures for the Expo tabletop game and prizes. Language will depend on the prizes and cost. For example: *I make a motion to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$260 from the 2024 EAC budget, for the purchase of a tabletop disc drop game at \$60, up to 50 native seed packets at \$3 each, and up to 50 Cup and Cone coins at \$1 each.*

**Agenda item 5B. Electric equipment survey**

Included in the June agenda packet is a draft Public Works survey. This survey was reviewed at the May meeting.

*Action:* Continue drafting the survey language. Discuss who should receive the survey and a timeline for submitting responses.

**Agenda item 5C. Buckthorn removal event**

Included in the June agenda packet are draft notes for the buckthorn removal event planning.

*Action:* Continue planning for a fall buckthorn removal event at Lakewood Hills Park and consider choosing an event date and rain date.

**Agenda item 5D. Marketfest low/zero waste event subcommittee**

A subcommittee was formed in May plan Marketfest low/zero waste events.

*Action:* Subcommittee to provide an update at the June EAC meeting.



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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris Frye

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

Motion carried, 4:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on April 17, 2024.

The commission members reviewed the draft April 17, 2024 meeting minutes and had the following changes: Item 7B, third paragraph, last sentence, replace 'Member XXXX' with 'It was' and item 7B, fourth paragraph, second sentence, change 'august' to 'August' and remove 'redevelopment grant was awarded to 'grant was awarded for demolition and that an additional grant was applied for'.

*Member Luxford arrived at 6:46pm*

It was moved by member **Bolstad** seconded by member **Johnston**, to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

Motion carried, 4:0. Member Luxford abstained.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. 2024 Environmental Resources Expo

Chair Schroeher showed an example photo of a prize drop game as a possible interacting display at the commission's expo table. Commission members like the slot game and agreed to purchase the tabletop version out of their 2024 budget. They brainstormed ideas for handing out prizes based on the game's four slot configuration. Prizes could be awarded by answering questions at the bottom of each of the four slots, or by having an assigned prize for each slot. Three of the slots could be a native seed packet prize and one larger prize in the fourth slot, such as a reusable product, gift card to a local sustainable business, or cash. Commission members discussed using the remaining Cup and Cone tokens as prizes. For the June meeting, commission members will brainstorm ideas for prizes and bring their remaining Cup and Cone coins. Taillon will check on the number of seed packets from last year, and order the tabletop prize drop game and additional seed packets.

### B. Electric equipment survey

Commission members reviewed the draft survey created by Member Luxford. They suggested fewer questions, adding more options for responses, and add questions asking if they have existing electric equipment and if a policy exists for electric equipment. Chair Schroeher suggested that the City adopt a policy that would encourage the purchase of electric equipment, not require it. Taillon offered to ask the Public Works director or superintendent for their opinions on the survey.

### C. Buckthorn removal event

Chair Schroeher summarized the onsite meeting discussion with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) staff at Lakewood Hills Park. RWMWD staff suggested starting to remove buckthorn in a less dense area such as near the bench on the north side of Hanlo's Pond and working out to either side, and to partner with volunteer organizations for this work. They also recommend that the cleared areas be seeded and maintained long term after removal. Taillon get an estimate for budget purposes from the City's contracted restoration company for seeding and maintaining the cleared areas. For buckthorn that requires power equipment to remove, the City's Public Works staff would need to remove the larger buckthorn with power equipment after the volunteer event. They also discussed other items that need to be finalized before the event such as a waiver, the minimum allowed age, if snacks and water will be provided, and when the restrooms close for the year.

*Member Greene arrived at 7:42 pm*

Member Luxford suggested taking before and after pictures of the restoration site. Chair Schroeher having a QR code on a poster at the Expo which will direct people to the volunteer webpage and sign up.

D. Marketfest low/zero waste event subcommittee

Chair Schroeher noted that he emailed the Marketfest coordinator to ask for any updates on the vendor zero waste survey. He said that she plans to send out the survey after the vendor application deadline on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The commission members discussed creating a Marketfest low/zero waste subcommittee to work on next steps. Member's Bolstad, Green, and Greenleaf offered to be on the subcommittee.

Chair Schroeher offered to contact Mill City Farmers Market to learn more about their zero waste program.

Member Greenleaf mentioned that her church was awarded a grant for organics. There was a lot of contamination so the hauler stopped offering food scraps pickup at their location. There is not a sign-up sheet for volunteers to monitor the food scraps bins and the collected food scraps is brought to the Public Works dumpster.

Member Luxford suggested collecting food scraps only at Marketfest to help avoid contamination.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

A. None

**7. DISCUSSION**

A. Staff updates

- 2024 No Mow May Program Synopsis

Taillon reported that the City of Rosemount contacted numerous Cities asking about No Mow May in their communities. She showed the survey responses that were shared by Rosemount. Of the twenty communities that responded, 7 are promoting No Mow May or similar, and 9 have another pollinator or native planting/habitat program that they are promoting instead of No Mow May. The Star Tribune recently published an article using the information gathered in this survey.

- Arbor Day tree planting

Taillon reported that Rotary Club volunteers planted 12 native trees and shrubs at Rotary Nature Preserve on April 27<sup>th</sup> for Arbor Day.

B. Commission member updates

- Reappointments

Member Johnston announced that he is not running for reappointed. His term will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Member Greenleaf was reappointed for another term.

Member Greene reported that he attended the Clean Air Yard Care event this evening sponsored by NE Metro Climate Action. The event was held at the White Bear Library

and featured electric lawn equipment on display and a presentation by Jukka Kukkonen, the founder of Shift2Electric. Shift2Electric consults on electric vehicles and are affiliated with the University of St. Thomas. Around 20 people attended in person and another 5 virtually. Member Greene suggests keeping in touch with Shift2Electric and current legislation for lawn equipment grants.

Member Luxford mentioned that he dropped off textiles at the spring cleanup event. The box truck used to collect the textiles was about one-third full. He stated that Ramsey County funded the pilot project and that the textiles collected will be recycled and reused as fill for cushions and other uses. In response to Member Luxford's question, Taillon stated that she will share the Ramsey County report on the pilot project once it's available.

#### C. Do-outs

New do-out items for May 15, 2024 include:

- Taillon to order tabletop game for the Expo.
- Taillon to check the number of remaining seed packets and order more forbs for a total of 50.
- Commission members to bring remaining cup and cone coins to June meeting.
- Commission members to come up with ideas for prizes by the June meeting. Ideas include 50 native seed packs and \$50 of cup and cone coins, plus others.
- Taillon to discuss electric equipment survey with City Engineer or Public Works superintendent.
- Taillon to ask NST about seeding Hanlo's Pond.
- Taillon to make buckthorn removal volunteer sign up poster with QR code for the EAC Expo table.
- Commission members Bolstad, Greenleaf, and Greene volunteered to be on the low/zero waste subcommittee.
- Chair Schroehler to reach out to Mill City Market about their food scraps recycling.

#### D. June agenda

Commission members asked Taillon to add 2024 Environmental Resources Expo, Electric equipment survey, Buckthorn removal event, Marketfest low/zero waste event subcommittee to the June agenda.

### 8. ADJOURNMENT

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

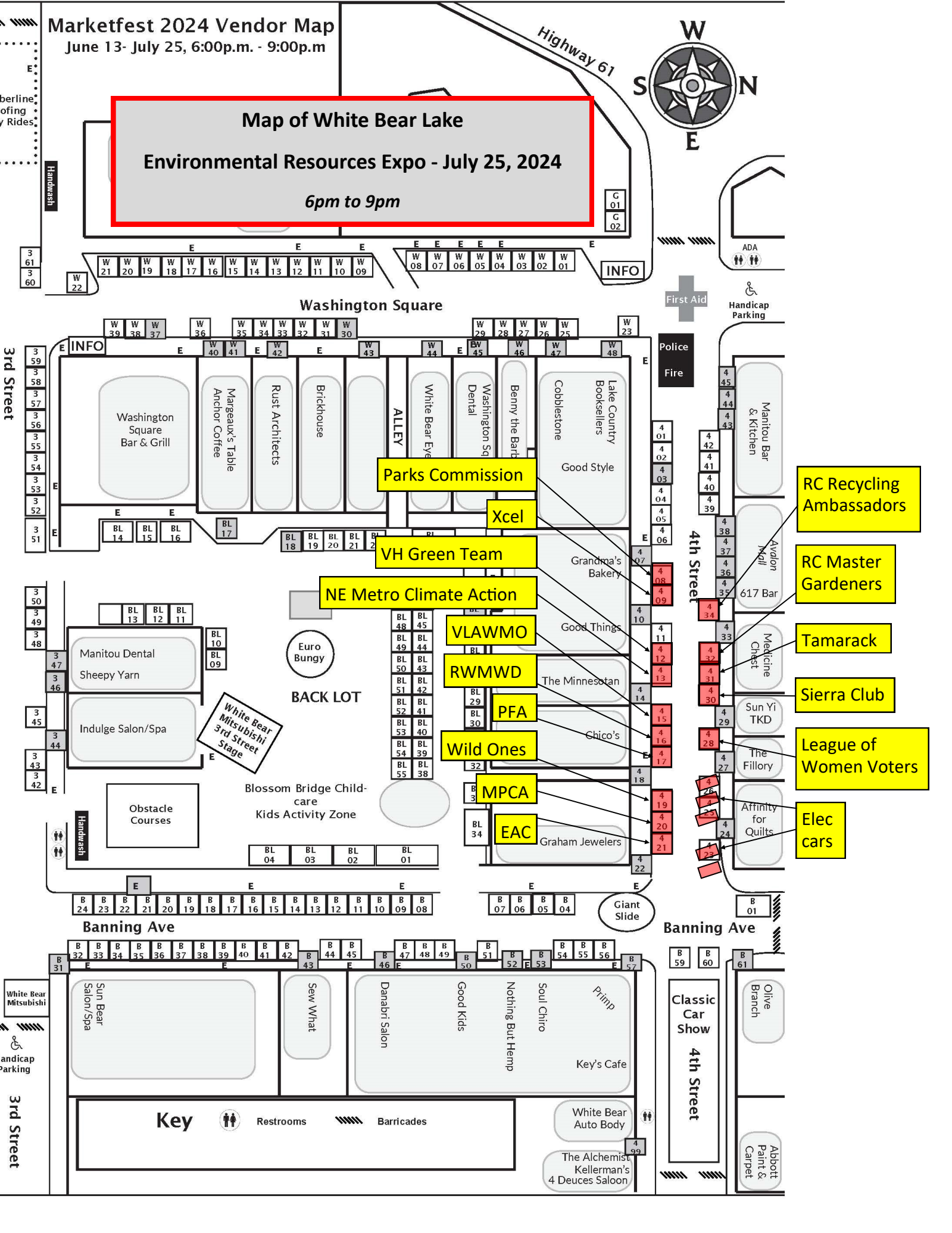
Motion carried, 6:0

**Marketfest 2024 Vendor Map**  
 June 13- July 25, 6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m

Highway 61



**Map of White Bear Lake**  
**Environmental Resources Expo - July 25, 2024**  
*6pm to 9pm*



**Parks Commission**

**Xcel**

**VH Green Team**

**NE Metro Climate Action**

**VLAWMO**

**RWMWD**

**PFA**

**Wild Ones**

**MPCA**

**EAC**

**RC Recycling Ambassadors**

**RC Master Gardeners**

**Tamarack**

**Sierra Club**

**League of Women Voters**

**Elec cars**

**Key**

- Restrooms
- Barricades

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 exhibitor list by the June 12<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting
- Brainstorm ideas for prizes by the June meeting in addition to 50 native seed packs and \$50 of cup and cone coins

#### **Electric lawn equipment**

- Jeff to create a draft survey and email Public Works about electric lawn equipment
- Gary to draft a letter to the City's Public Works Department encouraging them to electrify their equipment, and research other Cities that have electrified their equipment for inclusion in the letter

#### **Buckthorn removal event**

- Continue planning a buckthorn removal event
- 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

## Environmental Advisory Commission May 15, 2024

### Staff

#### **Expo**

- Finalize exhibitor list by the June 12th EAC meeting
- Order tabletop game before June meeting
- Check the number of remaining seed packets and order more forbs to get the total to 50
- Bring remaining cup and cone coins to June meeting
- Make volunteer sign up poster with QR code

#### **Electric lawn equipment**

- Research MPCA electric lawn equipment grant
- Discuss PW survey with City Engineer

#### **Buckthorn removal event**

- Ask NST about seeding Hanlo's Pond
- Set up a meeting with Parks Department to discuss Marketfest trash and recycling logistics (wait to hear from subcommittee)
- Research waiver

#### **Natural Resources Plan**

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

#### **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