



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order/Approve Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. City Council Appointment of Lee Nordmeyer to the Environmental Commission - Commissioner Nordmeyer's Oath of Ordinance
 - B. Revised Recommendations for 2022 Environmental Commission Budget
 - C. Develop a Plan for the Environmental Commission's Booth at Heritage Days
 - D. Preliminary Discussion of Promoting Bee Lawns
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
5. Adjournment



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Huston called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioner Anderegg Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Steinkamp, Commissioner Wasilowski and Chair Huston

Absent: Commissioner Nesvold

Staff: David Wanberg and Kari Casper.

2. Approve March 28, 2022 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderegg and seconded by Commissioner Steinkamp to approve the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed on a 5/0 vote.

Commissioner Wasilowski came in at 6:03 p.m.

3. Items of Discussion

A. City Council Appointment of Lee Nordmeyer to the Environmental Commission - Commissioner Nordmeyer's Oath of Office

Casper did not bring the Oath and so the matter was tabled until next month.

B. Surface Water Management Plan Update and City Ordinance Updates Related to the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

The City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, which is a required permit administered by the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and mandated by the Federal EPA, expired in 2018 and was reissued in 2020. The City received approval of the City's renewal application in October 2021 and has 12 months from that date to update City ordinances/policies/etc to be in permit compliance.

As part of the MS4 permit renewal, the City also hired a consultant to update the City's Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP). The previous SWMP was completed in 2004. The updated SWMP includes many changes from the 2004 plan including a City-wide storm sewer model, updates to design standards and reflects the City's staged

growth plan as adopted by the City's Journey to 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

After DuChene's presentation he asked if there were any questions and several came up. Commissioner Wasilowski asked about the City purchasing property in the floodplain. DuChene explained that there are several options for this under a Surface Water Management plan. The consultants offered three which would be 1) reinforce the structures; 2) build a dike or levy and 3) tear down. DuChene also explained that the DNR would be involved in the floodplain structure and ½ of the monies would be funded through them.

Commissioner Anderegg asked about the references to the buffer zones for the city's lakes and rivers. Buffers are tied to the Wetlands and governed by the local ordinances. DuChene stated that he will talk with the consultant and see if it makes sense to add that in.

One of the changes was to create a developer's guide to building say a subdivision. This guide would have essentially everything a developer would need to know to complete the project with some exceptions since not every project is the same.

Commissioner Brown was concerned about the repeated mention of a 10-year plan for the Stormwater Systems and not a 100-year. DuChene explained that the individual structures are set up for a 10-year plan but the water retention systems are designed for the 100-year.

Commissioner Wasilowski asked about an article he had previously forwarded to Wanberg about how there is built in water collectors in the boulevards – has that been discussed. DuChene is aware of this and stated that maybe someday it will be and was hesitant to tell someone they have to have this – it is not a requirement but a person could have this. DuChene said that maybe the City could encourage this and Wasilowski was okay with that terminology. Wanberg was asked to send the article to all members.

Commissioner Brown acknowledged the amount of work put into this by DuChene.

C. Prairie Ridge Park Rain Garden

The City is working on developing the Prairie Ridge Park on the south end of town (between Prairie Avenue and Base Line Road just north of 21st Street SW) and one of the features of the proposed park development is a new rain garden.

After some discussion the commissioners agreed to assist in organizing the planting and establishment of the rain garden to include signage. Recommended perhaps an open house. Wasilowski acknowledged the wildlife in the area. The commission will be kept informed on the progress. The playground is anticipated to be put in around July. There will be grading soon and DuChene said they will be putting out a request for bids for that process soon. There will need to be a lot of work in that regard.

Chair Huston wanted to jump ahead to Item E.

E. Approve Funding Request from GROWS Pollinator Committee

The GROWS Pollinator Committee has requested \$100.00 in funding from the Environmental Commission's 2022 budget to help defray expenses associated with pollinator posters, photographs, and exhibits to be displayed in Faribault in April and May of 2022. This request appears to be consistent with the Environmental Commission's Budget Committee's recommendations related to the Commission's budget.

A motion was made Steinkamp, seconded by Anderegg to approve funding the GROWS Pollinator Committee in the amount of \$100.00 to help defray expenses associated with pollinator posters, photographs, and exhibits to be displayed in Faribault

D. Environmental Commission Budget Recommendations from the Commission's Budget Committee

At its March 28, 2022, meeting, the Environmental Commission assigned Commissioners Anderegg, Brown, and Steinkamp to a budget committee. The Commission tasked the committee with recommending how to allocate the Commission's \$2000.00 2022 budget. The committee offers the following recommendations for Commission consideration:

Allocate \$1,250 to rain gardens/pollinator garden start-ups and signs. The committee envisions offering residents up to \$250 to start a garden and post a sign that describes how the garden helps pollinators and improves water quality.

Allocate \$250 to promote the environment at Heritage Days through incentives or drawings. The committee envisions asking nurseries, Rice Soil and Water Conservation District, and others for donations.

Allocate \$500 for other opportunities before the end of 2022.

City Staff requests that Commission allocate \$500-\$1,000 to help fund Home Energy Squad visits. Many cities contribute funds directly to the Home Energy Squad program, which simplifies the administration of the funds.

Commissioner Wasilowski raised his concern with any funds for recognizing people for their efforts. Anderegg asked if there were any groups he was thinking of to recognize. Steinkamp mentioned that GROWS could be the judges. Wanberg thought that Commissioner Nesvold would be at the next month's meeting and maybe could act as a liaison with the GROWS group.

After much discussion this item was tabled until next month for clarity.

F. Announcements and Updates

1. Status of residency requirements for Commission members

Wanberg stated that this passed the 1st reading before the council and it up for the 2nd reading tomorrow.

2. Community garden at North Alexander Park

Chair Huston stated that the Rotary has found its location just north of the aquatic center. The equipment was moved on Saturday and Chair Huston tilled the land on Sunday.

3. Efforts to promote "No Mow May" starting in 2023

A brochure was passed out regarding this subject that Chair Huston brought. Commissioner Brown stated that she further posted this in the "Nextdoor" app.

4. Minnesota Environment Commissions Conference on April 30, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (in person or online)

Chair Huston stated that he was interested in attending and would like to carpool. He said to meet at the Reliance Bank's parking lot at 8:30 on Saturday if anyone was interested in going with him. Commissioner Nordmeyer was interested. It is also available online.

5. Rice County Resilient Communities Cluster on May 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (online)

6. Planning for Heritage Days booth and Environmental Commission events

Commissioner Brown said she would assist.

7. Upcoming pollinator events

Anderegg said that there is an event coming up at the River Bend Nature Center soon.

4. Adjournment

Chair Huston asked for a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Anderegg brought the, seconded by Commissioner Steinkamp at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 25, 2022

by: _____
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: May 23, 2022
SUBJECT: City Council Appointment of Lee Nordmeyer to the Environmental Commission - Commissioner Nordmeyer's Oath of Ordinance

Background:

On April 12, 2022, the City Council appointed Lee Nordmeyer to fill a vacancy on the Environmental Commission resulting from the resignation of former Commissioner Claudia Garcia. On behalf of the City Council and the Environmental Commission, the City is grateful for Commissioner Nordmeyer's commitment and service to the Environment and Faribault. Kari Casper will administer Commissioner Nordmeyer's Oath of Office.

Recommendation:

N/A

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: May 23, 2022
SUBJECT: Revised Recommendations for 2022 Environmental Commission Budget

Background:

The Environmental Commission's Budget Committee presented its budget recommendation to the Commission on April 25. The Commission chose to continue its budget discussion until the Commission's May 23 meeting. The Budget Committee offers the following budget recommendations for Commission consideration:

1. Allocate \$250 for Heritage Days planning, purchasing prizes, and creating handouts promoting environmental practices.
2. Allocate \$200 for pollinator recognition signs. (Note that the GROWS Pollinator Committee is currently working with the Parks Department to provide pollinator signs.)
3. Allocate \$650 to help cover the costs of Home Energy Squad visits.
4. Allocate \$800 for Pollinator Garden Startups. Work with Rice County Soil and Water Conservation District to distribute up to \$50 per household to purchase pollinator plants for a pollinator garden. (Note that the RCSWCD has closed its plant sale for 2022.)
5. Allocate \$100 for another use that may arise later in 2022.

The Commission should discuss the Budget Committee's recommendation and provide direction to the City Planner. The City Planner will then review the budget recommendation with the Community and Economic Development Director.

Recommendation:

Provide direction to the City Planner regarding the Commission's budget recommendation.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, City Planner
Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Sarah Shapiro, Minnesota GreenCorps Member
MEETING DATE: May 23, 2022
SUBJECT: Develop a Plan for the Environmental Commission's Booth at Heritage Days

Background:

Faribault's Heritage Days 2022 take place from June 15-June 18. This event will bring the Faribault community together and provide an opportunity to spread residential energy savings to a wide range of residents. The City of Faribault has also received over 100 boxes of LED light bulbs from Xcel Energy at no cost to distribute to residents to promote more efficient lighting; Heritage Days additionally provides an opportunity to help residents save energy and money by giving them efficient LED bulbs.

We are in need of volunteers to table at this event. This volunteer position will involve distributing information about Home Energy Squad and encouraging people to sign up for a visit. Volunteers will also pass out free LED light bulbs. The LED bulbs are sorted into different sizes: night lights, 5W candelabra lights, 6W globe lights, 8W floodlight, 4/8/12W, 9W, and 15W. Residents are encouraged not to take more than two bulbs per person, with the exception of the candelabra lights (people can take as many of those as they want).

LED bulbs, as well as flyers with information about Home Energy Squad, will be provided. These flyers will have different information for renters and homeowners and will be available in Spanish and Somali.

The Commission can also promote pollinators and other Environmental Commission initiatives. The most important dates to have volunteers at the Environmental Commission table are on Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18.

Recommendation:

Develop and implement a plan for promoting Environmental Commission initiatives at Heritage Days,

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: May 23, 2022
SUBJECT: Preliminary Discussion of Promoting Bee Lawns

Background:

Commissioner Brown has requested that the Environmental Commission discuss opportunities to promote bee lawns. If the Commission is interested, she has proposed having a detailed discussion of bee lawns at the Commission's June 28 meeting. Commissioner Brown has identified the following websites for background information on bee lawns: <https://beelab.umn.edu/bee-lawn> and <https://extension.umn.edu/landscape-design/planting-and-maintaining-bee-lawn>.

Recommendation:

Provide direction on Commissioner Brown's request to explore opportunities to promote bee lawns.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: May 23, 2022
SUBJECT: Announcements and Updates

Background:

1. Chair Huston and Lee Nordmeyer will provide an update of the Minnesota Environment Commissions meeting held in Minnetonka.
2. If available, Commissioners should plan on participating in the Rice County Resilient Cities and Communities webinar on May 24 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.
3. The City was chosen to receive a MN GreenCorps member for 2022/23. The focus of the member will be on community outreach related to environmental efforts.
4. The City Council has requested that City Staff present a "Greening Downtown Faribault" plan at a July Council work session. The City Planner will build on the downtown tree inventory work and develop a draft "Greening Downtown Faribault" plan for Environmental Commission review and comments.
5. River Valley Church is looking for a day to mobilize volunteers to help with a community project. Perhaps the Commission has a project in mind.

Recommendation:

Attachments: