



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. Debrief of Heritage Days Event
 - B. Plan for the Role of the Environmental Commission at International Day
 - C. Pollinators, Bee Lawns, and Prairie Ridge Park
 - D. July 19 Council Work Session on Greening the Downtown and the Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance
 - E. Overview of Electric Vehicles, Charging Stations, and Ride and Drive Events
 - F. Staff Liaison to the Environmental Commission and Youth on the Commission
 - G. Staff Liaison to the Environmental Commission and Youth on the Commission
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
5. Adjournment



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Approve Agenda

Chair Huston called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioner Anderegg, Commissioner Nordmeyer, Commissioner Nesvold, and Chair Huston

Absent: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Steinkamp (at roll call) Commissioner Wasilowski

Staff: David Wanberg and Kari Casper.

Chair Huston requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Anderegg brought the motion, seconded by Commissioner Nesvold. Motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

2. Approve April 25, 2022 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nordmeyer and seconded by Commissioner Anderegg to approve the April 25, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

3. Items of Discussion

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

Casper administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Nordmeyer.

Commissioner Steinkamp arrived at 6:04 p.m.

B. Revised Recommendations for 2022 Environmental Commission Budget

Anderegg presented its budget recommendations as follows:

1. Allocate \$250 for Heritage Days
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. RCSWCD has closed its plant sale for 2022. Anderegg has not spoken with them yet regarding this proposal. Wanberg stated that City Engineer, Mark DuChene had a lead on some plugs that the Nagel Sod had over-ordered and were selling pallets of them very cheap. Might want to consider that. Wanberg will talk to DuChene when he returns on Thursday about this. Huston recommended speaking with Claire LaCanne at RCSWCD.
5. To allocate \$100 for another use that may arise later in 2022

A motion was brought by Nesvold to accept the budgets for items 1 and 3 above, seconded by Anderegg and to table the rest off the line items. Motion carried on a 5/0 vote.

C. Develop a Plan for the Environmental Commission's Booth at Heritage Days

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.

Chair Huston mentioned the critical habitat license plates. Wanberg suggested that we contact DuChene to see if he has any rain barrels left. A drawing was discussed. Steinkamp recommended a sign-up sheet to collect data. Discussed games and to talk with Peanasky about the tables and chair and maybe games. Anderegg was going to speak with Phenow about getting a banner for the table. Talked about a Google Docs

sign up sheet to man the tables.

D. Preliminary Discussion of Promoting Bee Lawns

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>.

After much discussion the board agreed to put this item as an agenda item on the June meeting. Nesvold asked if we could get someone in that already has a bee lawn or pictures to give examples. Maybe speak with Reuvers who is a Master Gardner. Anderegg is a Master Naturalist.

4, Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

Wanberg mention that he's had previous conversations with Becky Ford about Youth on Boards. Chair Huston stated that he will talk to them.

There is a Zoom meeting that Wanberg will send the link and reminder out to everyone set for Tuesday evening.

Wanberg stated that several ash trees have been identified in the downtown and Peanasky doesn't want to take them down until the weather gets cold so that the bugs are in the trees that they take down. Wanberg stated that he will find out if they want us to expand the tree inventory but will need volunteers to help.

Chair Huston and Lee Nordmeyer provided an update from their meeting held in Minnetonka of the Minnesota Environment Commissions. Nordmeyer said that they discussed information about much larger cities like policies and Partnerships in Energy, charging stations and Youth involvement; some of which were able to vote and some not.

4. Adjournment

Chair Huston asked for a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Nesvold brought the, seconded by Commissioner Nordmeyer at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 23, 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: June 27, 2022
SUBJECT: Debrief of Heritage Days Event

Background:

The Environmental Commission had a table at Heritage Days from Thursday, June 16 through Saturday, June 18. A special thanks to Kari Casper, who arranged to have the Environmental Commission at the event, Sarah Shapiro, who organized the Environmental Commission's role at the event, and all the Environmental Commission members who volunteered at the event and/or helped in many ways in the preparation and execution of the event. Sarah Shapiro will provide an overview of the event, and she will lead a discussion on how to strengthen planning for Environmental Commission events.

Recommendation:

Provide Staff with feedback on how to strengthen the role of the Environmental Commission in engaging residents in environmental issues and opportunities at community events.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: June 27, 2022
SUBJECT: Plan for the Role of the Environmental Commission at International Day

Background:

Sarah Shapiro will update the Environmental Commission on having a table at International Day on Saturday, July 9. Chair Huston has suggested that the Environmental Commission and Rotary Club share a table to promote mutual environmental opportunities. Sarah will facilitate a discussion with the Commission regarding planning the Environmental Commission's role at the event.

Recommendation:

Provide Staff with feedback on the planning efforts for the Environmental Commission's involvement in International Day.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: June 27, 2022
SUBJECT: Pollinators, Bee Lawns, and Prairie Ridge Park

Background:

Mark DuChene, City Engineer, intends to start construction on the proposed rain garden in Prairie Ridge Park this fall. He is planning on installing a rain garden seed mix. However, he noted that the garden could use plant plugs as well. If the Environmental Commission is interested, the Commission could organize volunteers to help plant the plugs and install interpretive signs. The Engineer must work within the Park Department's budget. However, the Engineer believes there is sufficient budget for some plugs and some interpretive displays.

In a related matter, Commissioner Brown would like the City to promote bee lawns. At a minimum, the Environmental Commission could work with the Park Board and the Parks Department to provide bee lawns in select locations, like adjacent to the proposed rain garden at Prairie Ridge Park.

Recommendation:

Provide Staff with feedback regarding the Commission's role in promoting bee lawns and the rain garden at Prairie Ridge Park.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: June 27, 2022
SUBJECT: July 19 Council Work Session on Greening the Downtown and the Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance

Background:

Last year, the Environmental Commission recommended changes to the City's Tall Grass and Weed (and Native Landscaping) Ordinance. Staff delayed bringing the draft ordinance changes to the City Council for action due to a lawsuit in North Mankato related to a similar ordinance. Staff is now prepared to review the proposed ordinance revisions with the Council at their work session on July 19. The Council will also review the downtown tree inventory and discuss tree replacements and other greening opportunities in the downtown. This work session will not be a joint work session with the Environmental Commission, but the work session will be open to the public.

Recommendation:

Discuss the Council's comments at the next meeting of the Environmental Commission on July 25.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: June 27, 2022
SUBJECT: Overview of Electric Vehicles, Charging Stations, and Ride and Drive Events

Background:

The City has made considerable progress preparing for the transition to electric vehicles. Sarah Shapiro will provide the Commission with an update of her EV work in Faribault. She has developed a plan for 28 additional EV charging ports in the community. She will also discuss her plans for an EV ride and drive event this summer.

Recommendation:

Provide Staff with feedback on the EV work to date and the plans for additional EV work in the community.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: June 27, 2022
SUBJECT: Staff Liaison to the Environmental Commission and Youth on the Commission

Background:

Healthy Community Initiative staff identified two high school students who have agreed to participate in the Environmental Commission starting this fall. The Commission should discuss ways to ensure that youth involvement with the Commission results in a win-win situation. The City is in the process of hiring a Community Development Coordinator who will work with the Commission starting this fall. The Coordinator will be able to help facilitate the Commission's work.

Recommendation:

Identify opportunities to ensure youth involvement with the Commission results in a win-win situation.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH:
FROM:
MEETING DATE: June 27, 2022
SUBJECT: Staff Liaison to the Environmental Commission
and Youth on the Commission

Background:

Recommendation:

Attachments: