



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 Gardener. 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