



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM	MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023	6:00 PM
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1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. Tree Preservation Ordinance Update
 - B. Landscaping Ordinance Update
 - C. Promotion of Pollinators
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
 - Rice SWCD Plant Sale
5. Adjournment



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:04 p.m. In attendance were Martha Brown, Teresa DeMars, Cynthia Diessner, Dick Huston, Lee Nordmeyer, Roger Steinkamp, and Chair Sonny Wasilowski. Also in attendance was Youth Representative Delia Denis, Recording Secretary, Kari Casper and Staff Liaison, Mathias Hughey.

A. Oath of Office

Heather Sletcha, Assistant to the City Administrator and City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to returning members, Roger Steinkamp and Dick Huston and new members Teresa DeMars and Cynthia Diessner before the meeting began.

B. Annual Meeting and Officer Elections

Martha Brown nominated Sonny Wasilowski as Chair. Motion by Brown, seconded by DeMars. The motion carried on a 7/0 vote. Chair Wasilowski then took over the meeting and Brown nominated herself to be Vice Chair. Motion by Brown, seconded by Huston. The motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

Following the vote, Chair Wasilowski asked for introductions and went around the room and stated who they were and what they did and why they wanted to be on the board.

2. Approval of the Minutes of January 23, 2023 Environmental Commission

Motion by Huston, seconded by Brown. The motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

3. Items for Discussion

A. No-Mow May

After some discussion, DeMars brought a motion to approve the staff recommendation as stated for this year, 2023, seconded by Brown with the caveat that this matter be revisited for the following year. DeMars moved to accept the amendment, seconded by Brown. The motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

B. Tree Preservation Ordinance - Work Plan

Hughey presented a draft work plan and suggested that the commission set up a subcommittee to meet and discuss the draft work plan on how to effectuate the ordinance changes. Hughey suggested maybe getting some feedback from the stakeholders. Brown asked if they could set up a public meeting and he said that they could, but reminded them all of the Open Meeting Laws and Notice periods for the same. A subcommittee was created with Huston, Steinkamp and DeMars volunteering. A Motion was made to DeMars, seconded by Huston to create the subcommittee. The Motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

A second motion was made by Huston, seconded by Brown to draft the Work Plan. The

Motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

C. Landscaping Ordinance - Work Plan

In regard to the Landscape Ordinance, Hughey again suggested that a subcommittee be created to discuss the draft work plan and how to effectuate the possible ordinance changes. Brown, Steinkamp and Nordmeyer agreed to volunteer for this committee. A Motion was made by DeMars, seconded by Huston to create the subcommittee. The Motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

A second Motion was made by Huston, seconded by Brown to create a draft Work Plan. The Motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

Brown, Huston and Denis all left the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

D. Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation

Hughey gave a presentation that the Mayor, Kevin Voracek, has been invited to participate in the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. This includes the City as a whole and has toolkit to assist. The Commission is charged with sending a letter of support for this challenge from the Environmental Commission. A motion was made by Diessner, seconded by DeMars. The Motion carried on a 5/0 vote. Diessner added that she would like to assist with this project.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

i 2023 Environment Commissions Conference

Hughey read the email from John Anderson, Local Government Program Manager, of Conservation Minnesota inviting the commission to the upcoming 2023 Environmental Commissions Conference to be held in Minnetonka at the Public Library on May 20th. from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If this is a Zoom event, Diessner stated that maybe all commission members could get together and attend here at City Hall. The exact details of this event have not been published yet and as they develop, the matter will be brought back to the commission for further discussion. No action was taken at this time.

ii Energy Action Plan Update - Participation Request

Hughey stated that with the Energy Action Plan is revisiting this, looking for progress. They have set up a number of Core Team Meetings and Hughey is looking for volunteers for each specified date. Brown let him know that she could attend one. Hughey stated that Steinkamp is also interested in assisting. Diessner stated that she would like to attend all three and reminded us that the date noted for the Core Team Meeting 2 which was set at May 14th should really be June 14th. No action was taken at this time.

5. Adjournment

Chair Wasilowski entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. The Motion was made by Steinkamp, seconded by Nordmeyer. The Motion carried on a 5/0 vote.



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: March 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Tree Preservation Ordinance Update

Background:

At its March 7, 2023 work session, the City Council directed that the Environmental Commission continue to explore a tree preservation and replacement ordinance. They affirmed that the Commission should work with developers, contractors, property owners, and others to make sure the ordinance is reasonable and will not prevent future development. The Commission's work may also relate to the landscape ordinance.

Recommendation:

The subcommittee assigned will provide an update and may request feedback or direction.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: March 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Landscaping Ordinance Update

Background:

At its March 7, 2023 work session, the City Council directed that the Environmental Commission continue to explore a tree preservation and replacement ordinance. They affirmed that the Commission should work with developers, contractors, property owners, and others to make sure the ordinance is reasonable and will not prevent future development. The Commission's work may also relate to the landscape ordinance.

Recommendation:

The subcommittee assigned will provide a brief update on their progress, and may request feedback or direction.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: March 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Promotion of Pollinators

Background:

At its March 7, 2023 work session, the City Council affirmed that the City would not participate in No-Mow May this year. However, the Council does want the Environmental Commission to continue to promote pollinators.

Recommendation:

Provide direction to the Community Development Coordinator on how the Commission would like to promote pollinators.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: March 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Rice SWCD Plant Sale

Background:

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is hosting its annual native plant and tree sales. Orders can be made online, and customers pick up the plants at the SWCD office in mid June. The sale runs through April 21, 2023. More information is available on the SWCD website.

This is a great low-cost way to get started with native plants.

[HOME | Rice SWCD Store \(riceswcdonlinestore.com\)](https://riceswcdonlinestore.com)

Recommendation:

Attachments: