ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM	MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023	6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
   - A. Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance
   - B. Tabling at Local Festivals and Events
4. Routine Business
   - A. Announcements and Updates
     - Pollinator Month Declaration
5. Adjournment

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM	MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023	6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order

   The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by acting chair Martha Brown. In attendance were Vice Chair Martha Brown, Teresa DeMars, Cynthia Diessner, Dick Huston, Lee Nordmeyer, and Roger Steinkamp. Also in attendance was Staff Liaison, Mathias Hughey.

2. Approval of the Minutes of February 27, 2023 Environmental Commission

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

3. Items for Discussion

A. Tree Preservation Ordinance Update

Update provided by DeMars. Discussion was held on the progress of the tree preservation and replacement ordinance update and what next steps and goals should be for the coming month. The discussion coincided with the discussion of the landscape ordinance and the tall grass and weed ordinance.

B. Landscape Ordinance Update

Update provided by Brown. Discussion was held on the progress of the landscape ordinance update and what next steps and goals should be for the coming month. The discussion coincided with the discussion of the tree preservation and replacement ordinance and the tall grass and weed ordinance.

Diessner suggested that all landscape-related ordinances be co-located. The suggestion was generally supported, and it was noted that the city code could be difficult to navigate. Hughey shared that public-facing documents could consolidate this information, in a more user-friendly way.

It was suggested that commission explore connecting with the Northfield Environmental Commission to learn from their experience with landscaping and tree policies.

Brown, left the meeting at 6:56 p.m. asking Houston to serve as chair.

C. Promotion of Pollinators

DeMars provided a brief update on several programs and projects underway to promote pollinators. More info will be included with next month's packet. It was suggested that pollinator info be added to the environmental commission section of the City's website.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

i Rice SWCD Plant Sale

Hughey shared an announcement that Rice SWCD was holding its annual plant sale, and provided a link to the SWCD store website.

5. Adjournment

Houston entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:04 p.m. The Motion was made by Steinkamp, seconded by DeMars. 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:	April 24, 2023
SUBJECT:	Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance

Background:

The subcommittee on the Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance has been reviewing ordinances from other communities, including model ordinances provided by the Green Step Cities program, to determine the appropriate range and scope of a potential tree preservation and replacement ordinance within the city.

The subcommittee, and the Commission generally, have identified adopting an ordinance as an effective strategy to ensure a healthy, diverse canopy, and protect the interests of Faribualt's citizens. They intend to draft an ordinance that respects and promotes Faribault's distinctive natural features, while not unnecessarily encumbering the productive development of land within the city. To this end, the subcommittee, along with the Community Development Coordinator have identified key elements of such an ordinance and several variations of the regulations imposed in other cities. Engagement with local stakeholders will solicit feedback on these areas.

The attached document outlines the key elements for feedback, and includes variations on the types of regulations imposed.

Members of the subcommittee have suggested that tree replacement could be offset by the installation of alternative native habitat, such as prairie plantings, consistent with historic biomes present in the Faribault area. The Community Development Coordinator has not identified any similar provisions in the ordinances reviewed, and any such provision would be novel. The basis for such a trade-off could be based on square footage, i.e. the canopy of a mature tree occupies X sq.ft. resulting in X (or X x Y) sq. ft. of replacement prairie, or could be based on a functional metric, i.e. a mature tree intercepts X gallons of stormwater the equivalent of X sq. ft. of prarie.

Recommendation:

Review the attached summary document for completeness. Approve engagement with local stakeholders to solicit feedback on appropriateness of suggested regulations. Identify preferred alternatives as recommended by the Environmental Commission.

Attachments:

1. Variations

When does Preservation/Replacement Apply

Northfield

- Site Plan Review or Major Subdivision

Professionally prepared tree inventory – location, health, type and size of all trees 12” DBH or greater

Lonsdale

- Subdivision, grading, or development
- Removal of significant trees in excess of 36” DBH per year

Tree preservation plan – certified by forester, landscape architect, registered land surveyor

Wayzata

- Subdivision, public infrastructure, single family construction

Tree preservation plan – prepared by certified professional, & include financial guarantee

- Land disturbance permits, single family construction, expansion of single family

Site Plan – nor professionally prepared, but must be approved by city staff

Plymouth

- preliminary plat application, or lot division application

tree survey and preservation plan – professionally prepared - at least 2 years prior to application submission

Owatonna

- No requirements apply – Due regard shall be shown for natural features including tree growth

Trees that Qualify/Counted

Northfield

- Trees with DBH 12” or greater are “Significant Trees”

Lonsdale

- “Significant Trees” later identifies trees over 6 inches DBH

Wayzata

	Soft Deciduous	Hard Deciduous	Conifer
Heritage Tree	30”+ DBH	25”+ DBH	25”+ DBH
Significant Tree	12”+ DBH	6”+ DBH	12”+ or 12”+ height

Plymouth

- Significant Trees (undefined)

Owatonna

- None

Replacement/Restitution Rates

Northfield

Removed (DBH)	12”-17”	18”-23”	24”-35”	36”-47”	48”+
Replacement	1 tree	3 trees	6 trees	10 trees	12 trees
Restitution	Value of replacement trees				

minimum of 2” DBH for B&B or 1.25” DBH

Lonsdale

	6” -11” DBH	12”+ DBH
Removed	1” DBH	1” DBH
Replacement	1.5”	2”
Restitution	$100 per caliper inch	

*replacement trees minimum of 2.5” caliper or 6’ for conifer

Wayzata

	Heritage Tree	Significant Tree
Removed	1” DBH	1” DBH
Replaced	2” Caliper	1” Caliper
Restitution	$160 or actual cost to city	

*replacement trees minimum 2.5” caliper or 6’ h for conifers

Plymouth

Removed	1” DBH of significant tree	
Replacement	1.25 DBH inches	Min size 2.5” DBH or 6’ h (conif)
Restitution	$125 restitution	

15% replacement trees may be ornamental & smaller in size

Fine of $150/inch for significant trees failed to protect

Owatonna

- None

Removal Threshold

Northfield

- All trees with DBH 12” + shall be retained as protected trees to the maximum extent feasible
- Removal allowed when:
    - Otherwise in compliance
    - Tree is obstacle to access and no alternative exists for relocating access
    - Replacement trees are provided

Lonsdale

- 36” DBH for land not under development
- 0% for land under development (grading permit or subdivision application)

Wayzata

- Subdivision, public infrastructure, single family construction
    - Heritage trees – removal only when no practical alternative – 0% removal threshold
    - Significant trees – 25% removal threshold
- Land disturbance permits, design review, Expansion of single family
    - Heritage trees – removal only when no practical alternative – 0% removal threshold
    - Significant trees – 10% removal threshold

Plymouth

- Residential – 50% of total inches of significant trees
- Non-residential – up to 75% of total inches of significant trees
- Reforest on-site or pay restitution, or combination for removal/disturbance above allowed threshold
-

Owatonna

- None

Counted Toward Landscape Requirements

Northfield

- Replacement Trees may not count towards other landscape requirements
- Preserved trees (DBH 2"+) may count towards other landscape requirements

Lonsdale

- Replacement trees counted towards other tree planting requirements

Wayzata

- Not clarified

Plymouth

- Replacement trees may count towards landscape requirements

Owatonna

- No

Exemptions

Northfield

- Diseased, dead, dying (requires professional determination)
- Immediate nuisance or threat – public safety or welfare (city engineer)
- Prohibited trees (invasive etc.)
- Removal by city for street improvements

Lonsdale

- Commercial nurseries, orchards, etc.
- Government agency for public right of way
- Diseased dying or dead
- Danger to life or property

- Utility company removal for their facilities
- No plan required if there are no significant trees or woodlands on a site

Wayzata

- Dead, diseased, dying or hazard trees,
- Approved transplanted trees
- Tree farm or nursery tress
- Structurally unstable and pose a risk to people or structures

Plymouth

- Removed for water quality treatment ponds, public trails or sidewalks, arterial/major collector rights of way

Owatonna

- None

Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO:	Environmental Commission
THROUGH:	David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM:	Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE:	April 24, 2023
SUBJECT:	Tabling at Local Festivals and Events

Background:
As the summer celebration season approaches, the commission should consider and coordinate outreach efforts in the city. Heritage Days, International Fest, and Blue Collar Festival, farmers markets and other community events provide the opportunity for direct engagement with the community on topics of environmental concern. In past years, engagement has focused on energy efficiency, promoting Home Energy Squad visits, and promoting pollinator-friendly practices. This year, we have the additional option of promoting the Energy Action Plan update, and soliciting feedback on the tree preservation and replacement ordinance and landscape ordinance updates.

Heritage Days:
June 15 - 17

International Festival Faribault:
July ?? Historically, the weekend after the 4th of July holiday.

Blue Collar Festival:
August 4 - 5

Farmers Markets:
Saturdays June - October, 7:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesdays 1:30 - 5:00 pm through September
Central Park

Thursdays June 8 - September 28, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Central Park

Recommendation:

Discuss the level of involvement the commission is willing to have in promoting environmental objectives at these events. Identify individuals to volunteer to engage with the public at each event, and which initiatives to promote.

Attachments:

Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO:	Environmental Commission
THROUGH:	David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM:	Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE:	April 24, 2023
SUBJECT:	Pollinator Month Declaration

Background:

This week the City Council intends to declare May Pollinator Month. See the attached draft declaration.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

1. 2023 Pollinator Proclamation

Office of the Mayor
City of Faribault
Proclamation

***WHEREAS**, Pollinator species such as birds, bees, bugs and other insects are essential partners for farmers in producing much of our food supply; and*

***WHEREAS**, Pollination plays a vital role in the health of our trees and plants of our community, enhancing our quality of life and creating recreational and economic development opportunities; and*

***WHEREAS**, the city of Faribault has managed our urban landscape and public lands that include many municipal parks and greenways, as well as wildlife habitats; and*

***WHEREAS,** in 2017 Faribault passed a pollinator friendly city resolution which led to the City's recognition in 2019 by the Pollinator Friendly Alliance of Minnesota; and*

***WHEREAS**, the City has partnered with G.R.O.W.S (Gardeners Reaching Out with Service) local gardening group to provide educational opportunities and encourage citizens to plant pollinator friendly species*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kevin Voracek, Mayor of the City of Faribault, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2023, as:*

Faribault Pollinator Month

In witness whereof I have hereunto
Set my hand and cause the seal to
be affixed

Mayor _____

Date April 25, 2023