

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Brown called the regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were Teresa DeMars, Cindy Diessner, Dick Huston, Lee Nordmeyer, Roger Steinkamp and Vice Chair Martha Brown. Also present were special guest, Ron Dweik, enrollment advisor for the Faribault Campus of South Central College, Mathias Hughey, Community Director Coordinator as well as Kari Casper, Recording Secretary.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A. Minutes 03/27/2023

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Roger Steinkamp to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed on a 5/0 vote..

Teresa DeMars arrived at 6:06 p.m.

3. Items for Discussion

A Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance

Hughey brought up on the screen several other surrounding communities' ordinances to determine the appropriate range and scope of the potential tree preservation and replacement ordinance Faribault may consider. There was some discussion of fees/fines and they were not in favor or getting permits.

Roger Steinkamp left at 6:20 p.m.

In regard to the Trees that Qualify/Counted, the board seemed impressed with the City of Wayzata which stated:

Wayzata

	Soft Deciduous	Hard Deciduous	Conif
Heritage Tree	30"+ DBH	25"+ DBH	25"+
Significant Tree	12"+ DBH	6"+ DBH	12"+

For Replacement/Restitution Rates, Diessner suggested a 1:1 ratio but not to penalize heavily and replace them with similar species.

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

Brown left at 7:00 p.m.

The board was once again impressed with the Wayzata example with regard to the Removal Threshold:

- 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

with the exception of the "Expansion of the single family".

There was further discussion of prairie/natural plantings in lieu of as well. No action was taken at this time.

B. Tabling at Local Festivals and Events

Last year, the board had a table at the annual Heritage Days and partnered up with Emily Nesvold with GROWS, the Rotary Club and RCSWC, Teresa DeMars. Hughey asked about involvement in this year's festival and offered a sign up sheet to see if anyone would be interested in attending the booth during the celebration. There was discussion about partnering up with the same groups as well as maybe the Clean River Partners. No action was taken at this time.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

Hughey reminded the members to look over the Wyland Mayor's Challenge and to review the Energy Action Plan information.

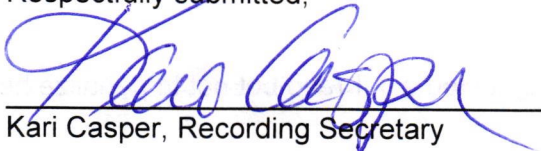
Pollinator Month Declaration

Hughey mentioned that Liz Hartman will go before the Council to get May proclaimed as Pollinator Month.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Teresa DeMars, seconded by Lee Nordmeyer to Adjourn at 7:23 p.m. The motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Kari Casper, Recording Secretary