



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Chair Huston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Delia Denis, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Steinkamp and Chair Huston.

Absent: Issac Yetzer, Commissioners Wasilowski and Anderegg.

Staff: David Wanberg, Mathias Hughey and Kari Casper.

3. Items for Discussion

A. MS4 Presentation

Mark DuChene, City Engineer, will provided his annual update to the Environmental Commission on the City's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) work.

Wanberg was to send the power point.

Roger Steinkamp arrived at 6:19 p.m.

Martha Brown arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Once there was a quorum, the Chair asked for introductions of Delia and Mathias.

2. Approve June 27, 2022 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nesvold and seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the June 27, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

B. Prairie Ridge Park Rain Garden

Mark DuChene, City Engineer, will update the Environmental Commission on the Prairie Ridge Park rain garden. The Environmental Commission may want to discuss how it can work with the Park Board and others to promote an awareness and understanding of the benefits of rain gardens. Duchene was going to look up the seed mix. Nesvold asked about signage and Wanberg confirmed that it would be a part of it.

C. University of Minnesota – Student Project in Faribault

David Wanberg, City Planner, has invited roughly 40 juniors and seniors enrolled in a Sustainable Communities class at the University of Minnesota to identify opportunities to help Faribault move toward sustainability. Students will spend roughly 40 hours preparing concepts on topics such as bee lawns, native shoreland buffers, food gardens, placemaking, clean and renewable energy, eco-industrial parks, sustainable housing, and other topics. Students are planning to come to Faribault around 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 29.

Wanberg stated that the students are curious about Food Gardens. Huston talked about harvesting the seeds from Crocker's Creek. Wanberg suggested that Huston contact Danil Thorestsson our GreenCorps member to rally the troupes.

D. Minnesota GreenCorps Work Program

The City of Faribault is fortunate to have Danil Thorestsson, Minnesota GreenCorps Member, working with the community over the next 11 months. Danil will be focusing his efforts on "community readiness and outreach" related to sustainability. He will provide the Commission with a brief overview of his work plan as it relates to the Environmental Commissions work plan.

E. Overview of Bee Lawns and Native Plantings

Commissioners Nesvold and Brown met with Paul Peanasky, Parks and Recreation Director, to explore possibilities to enhance native/pollinator plantings and bee lawns. More recently, Commissioner Brown and David Wanberg, City Planner, met with Lisa Reuvers to discuss possible bee lawn demonstration areas around the library.

F. October 26 Joint Meeting with Park Board

Some of the Environmental Commission's work overlaps with the Park Board. Consequently, Paul Peanasky, Parks and Recreation Director, and David Wanberg, City Planner, have scheduled a joint meeting for Wednesday, October 26, at 6:00 p.m. mostly to discuss Prairie Ridge Park. Discussed cancelling next ENV meeting and just meet with the Parks Board

G. Faribault Energy Action Plan Update

In 2017, Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Program worked with the Faribault Community to develop an Energy Action Plan. Xcel has offered to work with the City to update the Plan (Community Energy Planning Guide (faribault.mn.us)). The City Planner will provide a brief overview of the 2017 plan and facilitate a discussion regarding the process to update the plan.

Wanberg is to email out the current energy action plan.

H. October 6 Annual City-County Climate Action Conference

The Annual City-County Climate Action Conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2022. Refer to the attachment for more information.

Wanberg is to send flyer out.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

5. Adjournment

Chair Huston asked for a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Nesvold brought the motion, seconded by Commissioner Steinkamp at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 26, 2022

by: 
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary