



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Huston called the meeting to order at 6:03.

Roll Call: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Anderegg, Commissioner Wasilowski and Chair Huston

Absent: Commissioner Steinkamp

Staff: David Wanberg, Sarah Shapiro and Kari Casper.

2. Approve February 28, 2022 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nesvold and seconded by Commissioner Anderegg to approve the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion unanimously passed.

3. Items of Discussion

A. GreenStep Cities Update

B. Electric Vehicles, Charging Stations, and Ride and Drive Event

C. Update on Home Energy Squad Visits

D. Upcoming Pollinator Events

Sarah Shapiro spoke about the GreenStep Cities update. Faribault became a Step 1 GreenStep City in 2016 and has progressed to Step 2. Becoming recognized as higher than Step 2 requires having a Complete Streets policy and a Sustainable Purchasing policy, among numerous other actions.

Shapiro went over the possibility of working with a third party on putting in EV charging stations throughout the city and have an overview of the potentials for working with Carbon Solutions, ZEF, Xcel's Public Charging Pilot Program. Commission Brown asked if we had an inventory on what the demand might be for the city. Wanberg responded by stating that the State has been keeping track of this.

Shapiro offered up information on having another Ride-N-Drive event. The board was receptive to this

Shapiro also recognized that the city's fleet currently only has one Nissan Leaf and one Mitsubishi Outlander. She sent a survey out to the department heads and came up with the need for larger capacity vehicles.

Nesvold stated that she preferred the Carbon Solutions offer to look into further. Commissioner Anderegg then asked if the board needed to get council approval before going forward into Step 3. Wanberg said yes. Anderegg also recommended Carbon Solutions. Commissioner Brown asked if the proceeds from the charging stations could be put towards the "Complete Streets" project; Wanberg said it could. Brown asked about having community members make "pledges" to projects. Nesvold asked about getting a sign and how to pay for it. Wanberg stated that there is a \$2,000 budget that would need to be used by the end of the year or it will be lost. It was directed to find out the price of the sign that would be used.

Shapiro stated that she distributed 18 of the 150 LED bulb boxes the City received from Xcel at the Senior Center. They opened up the boxes to offer the different bulbs and the people seemed to take all

In addition to the senior center event. She went on to state the they would like to promote the Home Energy Squad visits at City events such as Heritage Days (June 17-18) and need volunteers to assist with that. To further promote Home Energy Squad, the City could potentially fund discounted visits in the future. The City Council provided the Commission with a \$2,000 budget this year. The Commission may choose to use \$500 to \$1,000 of the budget to provide discounts for Home Energy Squad (HES) visits for those who do not qualify for a free Home Energy Squad visit.

Brown discussed incentivizing by pledging. They came up with offering a discount on Home Energy Squad Visits on a raffle basis perhaps at Heritage Days. Wanberg asked if the commission would be willing to man the table at Heritage Days, there were several that stated they would be able to do that on Saturday the 19th of June. Nesvold asked about getting a price for a sign or banner. They talked about getting \$50 off the price for the HES visits

Nesvold made a motion seconded by Brown to form a workgroup to discuss how to promote and spend the budgeted \$2,000. The workgroup would consist of Anderegg, Brown and Steinkamp.

At least two Environmental Commission members are actively involved in pollinator events. There may be opportunities for the Environmental Commission to partner or at least coordinate with others on pollinator plantings and events. Nesvold stated that May is pollinator month and is hoping the Mayor will proclaim it. Nesvold said that they intend to participate in the pet parade. They will be having their annual plant sale and would also promote at Concerts in the Park over the summer months. Anderegg stated that she would like to be a part of deciding on what plots of land the city is intending on using for garden.

Wasilowski said that we should move on this and a motion made a motion seconded by Brown. Vote was unanimous.

E. Amendment to the Environmental Commission Ordinance to Allow up to Three Commissioners from Contiguous Townships

The City Ordinance that established the Faribault Environmental Commission allows up to two Commissioners from a contiguous township to serve on the Commission. Commissioner Brown recused herself from this action item.

Nesvold made a motion to recommend that the City Council amend the ordinance establishing the Environmental Commission to allow up to three Commissioners from contiguous townships, seconded by Anderegg. Motion carried on a 4/0 vote with Brown abstaining.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

Wasilowski mentioned that we need to work on the place cards and put them in the budget for the gardens.

5. Adjournment.

Chair Huston asked for a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Nesvold brought the, seconded by Commissioner Anderegg at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 28, 2022

by: 
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary