



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Approve November 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. Overview of the Environmental Commission's 2021 Accomplishments
 - B. Preliminary Discussion of 2022 Work Plan
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
 - B. Acknowledgment and Appreciation for the Service of Commissioners Behrens and Diessner
5. Adjournment

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH:
FROM:
MEETING DATE: January 24, 2022
SUBJECT: Approve November 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Background:

Recommendation:

Attachments:

1. 2021-11-22 ENV Meeting Minutes



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2021

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice Chair Behrens called the meeting to order at 6:01.

Roll Call: Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Steinkamp, Commissioner Wasilowski and Vice Chair Behrens

Absent: Commissioner Garcia

Staff: David Wanberg, City Planner, Sarah Shapiro, and Kari Casper, Recording Secretary.

2. Approve October 25, 2021 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Huston and seconded by Commissioner Nesvold to approve the October 25, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion unanimously passed.

Chair Steinkamp arrived at the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

3. Items for Discussion

A. Review draft of Downtown Tree Master Plan

Sarah Shapiro gave a presentation outline the downtown tree inventory and with the presentation offered some suggested areas for plantings. After some discussion regarding the give of parking spaces for the green space, she will be asked to get her presentation ready for the next meeting to present to council. The next meeting is set for December 27th and since it's around a holiday, it might be light or canceled. The board did ask that she send the presentation around if the meeting gets canceled for any input prior to the next meeting. Chair Steinkamp brought up the cost and mentioned I-Trees benefits of providing the information on how a person could save money. It was noted the Shapiro is going to be meeting with the Park and Recreations Director, Paul Peanasky and his staff in the near future to discuss how to implement her proposal and she will bring that back to the board. Shapiro did report that she met with staff from the City of Minneapolis on what they are doing with their current tree inventory. She reported that Minneapolis decided to remove all the ash trees at once and replace with only one genus of tree, that being Maple. Staff asked for feedback on

Faribault's situation and the consensus was that we would not move in that direction and discuss implementing a plan in phases for removal and replanting.

A. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

- i. Expiration/Renewal of the Terms of Environmental Commission Members

Both Diessner and Behrens' commissions are due to expire on 1/31/2022. Diessner indicated she will not be reapplying and it was encouraged to have potential members apply on line.

- ii. Past and Upcoming GreenStep Cities Webinars

Wanberg listed off a number of upcoming webinars that may be of interest.

- iii. Commissioner Diessner wishes to share the following link with Commission members: [COP26: Here are 7 of the world's best solutions to build sustainably](#)

Diessner shared that the architecture was amazing in this article.

B. Agenda Items for December 27, 2021 Meeting

- i. Finalize Downtown Tree Master Plan was discussed but meeting may be postponed.
- ii. Discussion of 2022 Environmental Commission Work Plan will be presented for review.

B. Adjourn

A motion was made by Commissioner Nesvold and seconded by Commissioner Huston to adjourn at 7:02 pm

Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 22, 2021

By: _____
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: January 24, 2022
SUBJECT: Overview of the Environmental Commission's 2021 Accomplishments

Background:

The Environmental Commission and/or City Staff accomplished and/or participated in many environmental activities in 2021, including the following:

1. Developed an Environmental Commission Handbook (or road map).
2. Reviewed and recommended approval of the City's Climate Adaptation Plan.
3. Discussed environmental issues and opportunities with the City Council.
4. Participated in organizing a solar group buy program, which was later delayed due to interconnection issues that need to be resolved at the state level.
5. Applied for and received a Regional Sustainable Development grant to help promote community outreach on environmental issues.
6. Applied for and received a Clean Energy Research Teams grant to help empower residents on home energy efficiency efforts.
7. Applied for and received a Minnesota GreenCorps member (Sarah Shapiro) to help implement environmental actions.
8. Prepared a tall grass and weeds ordinance amendment.
9. Actively pursued youth involvement on the Environmental Commission.
10. Hosted an MS4 workshop.
11. Updated GreenStep Cities actions.
12. Prepared a draft tree preservation and replacement ordinance.
13. Conducted an inventory and analysis of trees in the downtown.
14. Obtained 150 LED kits for distribution to the community as a means to promote energy efficiency actions.
15. Made initial updates to the City's environmental website.
16. Hosted a delegation of State Commissioners and officials to celebrate and promote the environmental actions undertaken in Faribault.

On behalf of the City Council, we are grateful for the work the Environmental Commission accomplished in 2021!

Recommendation:

No recommendation or action is required.

Attachments:

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: David Wanberg, City Planner
MEETING DATE: January 24, 2022
SUBJECT: Preliminary Discussion of 2022 Work Plan

Background:

Each year, the Environmental Commission must prepare a work plan to guide the efforts of the Environmental Commission over the coming year.

The attached list identifies potential projects the Commission could work on in 2022. The Commission will discuss these and other ideas. Then, at its February meeting, the Commission will adopt a 2022 work plan. The Commission should prioritize the list of items on the work plan within the context of staffing and budgets. Some work plan items may need the approval of the City Council.

Recommendation:

Review the attached list and be prepared to discuss and revise the list as needed.

Attachments:

1. Preliminary 2022 Environmental Commission Work Plan

DRAFT
Environmental Commission 2022 Work Plan
For Review and Revision

1. **Urban Agriculture/Community Gardens.** There appears to be growing interest in having community food gardens in Faribault. Currently, at least one religious institution hosts a community food garden. In addition, the Rotary Club established a garden on City property near the intersection of 17th Street SW and Willow Street. However, the City intends to sell that property for future development. Consequently, there is a strong interest in finding new opportunities for food gardens in Faribault. The schools have also expressed an interest in food gardens. If the City Council is interested in the City being a participant in these discussions, the Commission could potentially identify opportunities to promote urban agriculture and community gardens.
2. **Pollinators and Native Plantings.** Since its inception, the Commission has expressed a desire to promote pollinators and native plantings in the city. The Commission took an initial step last year in recommending changes to the City's tall grass and weeds ordinance. The Commission may want to take additional steps in 2022 to recommend city-owned areas where existing turf could be converted to pollinators and native plantings.
3. **Greening Downtown Faribault Master Plan.** With assistance from Sarah Shapiro, Minnesota GreenCorps member, the Commission completed an inventory of trees in the downtown. However, the Commission should go beyond planning for trees in the downtown and look at other opportunities to further green the downtown with perennials, shrubs, planters, rain gardens, green roofs, and the like. The City Planner can work with the Commission to prepare a Greening Downtown Faribault Master Plan.
4. **Tree Inventory and Analysis on City Property.** As stated above, the Commission inventoried trees in the downtown area. However, the Commission could expand beyond the downtown and conduct an inventory of other city-owned property. Then, as time permits, the Commission could prepare a plan for tree replacements and enhancements.

5. **Community-wide Energy Efficiency Actions.** The City received two small grants to promote community-wide energy efficiency actions. The City is currently working with two manufactured home communities to promote free Home Energy Squad visits. However, there are many other opportunities in which the Environmental Commission could be involved. This work requires a lot of community outreach that City Staff cannot do alone. Potential Commission members, youth, and others could get involved in this work.
6. **Transportation Efforts including Electric Vehicles.** A worldwide shift to electric vehicles is occurring, and Faribault must prepare for this shift. The City has begun transitioning to electric vehicles, but we have a long way to go. In addition, the City needs to consider other ways to enhance transit. There are many opportunities for the Commission to be involved in this work. For example, many cities have adopted ordinances to provide electric vehicle charging stations in new development. The Commission could review these ordinances and make recommendations to the Council.
7. **Awareness and Understanding of Environmental Issues and Opportunities.** Since its inception, the Commission has emphasized promoting community-wide awareness and understanding of environmental issues. The Commission has strived to involve youth in the Commission's work. However, the Commission and City can do much more to promote awareness and understanding.

The Commission should discuss the above ideas and additional ideas. Then, at its February meeting, the Commission should identify the top items it will work on in 2022.

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH:
FROM:
MEETING DATE: January 24, 2022
SUBJECT: Acknowledgment and Appreciation for the Service
of Commissioners Behrens and Diessner

Background:

Recommendation:

Attachments: