

**MEETING MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
February 27, 2017
6:00 PM**

North St. Paul – City Hall/Sandberg Room
2400 Margaret Street



I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sue Springborn called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Glen Olson, Vice Chair
Sue Springborn, Chair
Simba Blood
Jan Walczak, Council Liaison

Absent: Shawn Adams
Felicia Tolbert-Ireland

Staff: Keith Stachowski, Public Works
Debra Gustafson, Strategic Operations Director

III. ADOPT AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without objection

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. On motion by Vice Chair Olson, seconded by Commissioner Blood with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the January 23, 2017 meeting minutes.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Note: This is a courtesy extended to persons wishing to address the Commission concerning issues that are not on the agenda. This discussion will be limited to 15 minutes.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS-

VII. PRESENTATIONS

VIII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action: Highway 36 Landscaping.** Vice Chair Olson and Keith Stachowski stated maybe it is best to wait until Spring to identify the plantings. Liaison Stachowski said MNDot may revisit landscaping when construction happens at Hadley. Council Liaison Walczak said she would contact Todd from MNDot and invite him to the March meeting. Gustafson stated she would put it on the March agenda.
- B. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action: Demonstration Projects.** Liaison Gustafson stated that the Demonstration Project is slated to be discussed at the March 21, 2017 City Council workshop meeting. The proposed plan is to discuss the following:

- 1) Provide brief overview of the City's adopted Living Streets Plan and share the results from the recent Bike/Sidewalk demonstration project we conducted.
- 2) Ramsey County speak for approximately 20 minutes regarding Ramsey County's Ped / Bike Plan, specifically as it relates to North St. Paul.
- 3) Next Steps for the living street plan.

Liaison Gustafson asked Commission members to attend the workshop.

Council Liaison Jan Walczak asked staff to research information regarding ADA accessibility requirements for a City of North Saint Paul's Size.

- C. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action: Big Tree Registry Recognition:** Liaison Gustafson stated that she has contacted nominees regarding the recognition at the March 21, 2017 City Council meeting. Many have responded that they are planning to attend.
- D. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action: Trash and Recycling Survey.** Liaison Gustafson stated that she and Keith met with Ramsey County recently regarding recycling and trash and that they offered to pay for a recycling and trash survey for North St. Paul. Included in the packet is information regarding the survey. Gustafson stated when she has the sample survey questions. She will share them with the EAC.

IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- A. **Review/Discussion:** Bikeable Community Workshop – We were not picked. Gustafson stated she would follow up regarding the 1 hour conference call that was offered,
- B. **Review/Discussion:** Invasive Species Workshop – is scheduled on May 22, 2017. Gustafson stated the flyer for the program was included in the packet.
- C. **Review/Discussion:** Contribution of \$1,000 to RCCWMA was approved by City Council on 2/21.
- D. **Review/Discussion:** Tree Giveaway – April 22, 2017. City Forester Josh Bond has been working on. Vice Chair Olson requested Josh to attend either the May or June meeting to provide an EAB update, Tree Species Selection for the 2018 give away and other trees related items. Commissioner Blood suggested picking tree for 2018 that best support biodiversity. See mentioned the University of Delaware has put together a comprehensive list of tree species.
- E. **Review/Discussion:** Comp Plan meeting. Gustafson mentioned she sent out an email to the Commission regarding upcoming comp plan preparation meetings that will be held during City Council workshop meetings. She asked the commission members to attend if they are able to.
- F. **Review/Discussion:** Bridging. Gustafson discussed bridging which is the process of groups intentionally connecting with younger generations, which was originally presented by Ingrid Koller from the PRC. At the last PRC meeting Ingrid suggested having groups add a component into events which would encourage volunteering and get more people involved in our community. Gustafson stated she would like to compile volunteer opportunities to hand out to the Citizens Academy Participants and to be handed out at the May 6, Jerry Bell Ribbon cutting booth. Gustafson asked Chair Springborn to provide her with volunteer information for NSP Green and the Historical Society

X. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- A. **Review/Discussion:** Vice Chair Olson, asked Gustafson to Follow up with WSB regarding including the following groups in the 2018 street reconstruction planning: Maplewood, Washington County, Ramsey County and Oakdale

And bringing in East Metro Water Resource Education Program for education. Gustafson stated she would send a follow up email.

B. Review/Discussion: Bulk Pick Up. Council Liaison Walczak shared recent City Council conversations regarding bulk pick up. She mentioned that the City may return to pay as you use it. Put back to the hands of Hauler. She mentioned it is not fair to tax all of the bulky item disposed since some of it is recyclable. Walczak said if we go back to pay as you use it the City would most likely need to go back to offering clean up days. Chair Springborn mentioned the unlimited bulk pick up started because too much dumping was happening and it's easy for people just to request pick up at their house. Commissioner Blood provided the suggestion of providing residents with bulky item vouchers every six months for hazardous and large items. Walczak shared examples of what is being dumped, which is beyond the items residents call in. Walczak mentioned the City Manager is currently trying to renegotiate the contract having the hauler take over the billing on bulky items without having to change the date on the current contract. The current contract will expire in 2018. When the contract is renegotiated the Commission stated they would like to be able to weigh in and provide feedback.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Blood, seconded by Vice Chair Olson, with all present voting aye, motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting March 27, 2017