

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**March 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 6:05 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Sue Springborn, Chair  
Glen Olson, Vice Chair. Via telephone  
Simba Blood  
Felicia Tolbert-Ireland

Absent: Shawn Adams  
Jan Walczak, Council Liaison

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

Others: Todd Carroll, MNDot

**III. ADOPT AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted with the addition of High School Recycling.

**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.**

Chair Springborn asked Carroll from MNDot if the MN36 project has been completed to plan specifications. Carroll stated that the work was completed but it is possible that some of the planting did not establish themselves. He mentioned there have been some issues with MNDot contractors establishing plants. Commissioner Blood asked if there was a required design aesthetic for plantings. Carroll stated there is not design aesthetic but it is recommended for municipalities to replace Ash. Commissioner Blood asked for the master vision is for 36. Carroll stated the master

vision is to remove all stop lights on highway 36 except the lights at 120. Carroll shared with the Commission information regarding the Community Roadside Landscape Partnership Program. If the City is interested in doing planting on highway 36, the City can apply for the reimbursement program for up to \$10,000 annually. MNDot sets aside \$100,000 annually for the metro area. If the City is interested in applying for the program they would be responsible for planting and maintaining the plants. The program is open for next fiscal year (July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>). The process would be for the City to send a letter to MNDot to request to participate in the program, the City Council would also need to adopt a resolution. Carroll said when we apply we should plan on a project for spring or fall 2018. He recommended holding off doing planting near Hadley since they are planning to do an upcoming project at that intersection. Carroll recommended City Staff planting and maintaining highway planter and not volunteers due to safety concern.

- B. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Demonstration Project – Bike Lane Liaison Gustafson gave an overview of the City Council presentation on March 21<sup>st</sup>. She also mentioned she followed up with Ramsey County regarding the 2018-2020 sheet projects and stated that the City would like to be involved in the planning process. Chair Springborn stated it was reassuring to hear the presentation from the County, which highlighted that bike / ped planning in the County is being reviewed/planned by the County and not just on a city level. Springborn stated maybe the City needs to revisit the Living Street map to reassess connections since some of the connections have been broken with the removal of sidewalks in recent street project.
- C. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Big Tree Registry Recognition. Liaison Gustafson stated Vice Chair Olson and Chair Springborn gave a great presentation at the March 21 City Council meeting. Chair Springborn said it was a fun experience. Three residents attended the presentation. Gustafson stated she would contact residents that were not present regarding picking up their certificate at City Hall. Liaison Stachowski stated that there are two options for residents to have the rotating tree registry sign to be placed in their front yard either on a post in the ground or one that will be in a weighted bucket. Stachowski stated he would take pictures of both options for residents to decide. Once Gustafson has received the photo, she said she would send out an email to nominees regarding having the sign showcased in their yard for a month.
- D. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Trash and Recycling Survey. Liaison Gustafson stated that the City and Ramsey County are currently working on refining the questions for the survey.

## IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- A. **Review/Discussion: Review/Discussion:** Comprehensive Planning Workshops: March 7 and April 4. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Liaison Gustafson reminded the Commission of the upcoming April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- B. **Review/Discussion:** Invasive Species Workshop – May 22, 2017. Attached is flyer. Gustafson reminded the Commission that the invasive species workshop is scheduled for May 22 at City Hall
- C. **Review/Discussion:** City Forester is planning to attend the May 22, 2017 EAC meeting. Gustafson asked if there are any topics the Commission would like the City Forester to prepare. Commissioner Olson said an update on EAB and dumpster gravel grown trees.
- D. **Review/Discussion:** Trash and Recycling Survey. Already discussed under Commission business.

- E. **Review/Discussion:** Tree Give Away – April 22, 2017. Gustafson stated that all of the trees are spoken for.
- F. **Review/Discussion:** Score Grant – School Update. The Commission suggested using some of the Score Grant money to assist the High School increase their recycling.
- G. **Review/Discussion:** Historical Society Plant Sale. Chair Springborn stated that the plant sale is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> from 10a-2pm. If anyone want to come let Sue know.
- H. **Review/Discussion:** 2018 Road Reconstruction Project. Liaison Gustafson asked for clarification regarding feedback the EAC provided City Engineer Dawley regarding engaging other entities / public outreach for the 2018 street reconstruction project. The EAC recommends that the City connect with all entities/municipalities that the 2018 project will connect with and have an conversation with them prior to starting the project. The EAC recommends that the City budget for public education for the project. They would like to see public outreach / education provided to the community regarding the benefits of incorporating living streets elements into the 2018 street reconstruction project. The purpose of the community education would be to advance concepts of the City Living Street Plan and head off some of the possible push back from the community should the project include elements such as sidewalks. The EAC mentioned the East Metro Water Resource Education Program as a possible organization to provide community education for the project. .

#### **X. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- A. **Review/Discussion:** Recycling. Vice Chair Olson stated that he has been in contact with Mike Bolen from ISD 622, Bolen said they are not recycling much. Olson also stated it has been noted that the janitors have been seen dumping bins all into a common bin when emptying at the end of the day. Gustafson stated they are not currently under the Cities Contract so the City is unable to enforce recycling requirement. The Commission suggested using Score grant money to increase recycling at the high school. Gustafson stated she would contact Ramsey County to discuss potential strategies to work with the high school.
- B. **Review/Discussion:** Glen Olson gave a brief overview of the Shade Tree Short Course he attended at the U of M. He mentioned 1,200 Arborists attended the training.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Commissioner Tolbert-Ireland, seconded by Commissioner Blood, with all present voting aye, motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

***Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting April 24, 2017***