

**MEETING MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
May 22, 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 6:02 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Felicia Tolbert-Ireland

Staff: Keith Stachowski, Public Works  
Josh Bond City Forester  
Debra Gustafson, Strategic Operations Director

**III. ADOPT AGENDA**

On motion by Commissioner Blood, seconded by Vice Chair Olson with all present voting aye, motion carried to adopt the agenda as presented.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Vice Chair Olson, seconded by Commissioner Blood with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the April 24, 2017 meeting minutes as corrected. Correction: Remove text that Vice Chair attended via teleconference, he was present at the meeting.

**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:** Forestry Update. City Forester Josh Bond provided the Commission with a forestry update.

- Tree Give Away: Commissioner Blood suggested calling it Tree Adoption instead of Tree Give Away. The Commission suggested taking up to 10 names on a waitlist. Have the tree adoption from 9-10:30am and call people on the waitlist if there are remaining trees from 10:30-11 a.m. The

Commission suggested sticking with the \$2,000 tree give away budget and adopting smaller trees next year. This year several people had difficulty fitting the trees in their cars. The Commission provided City Forester, Josh Bond with the proposed tree list for the 2018 tree adoption. Josh said he would check with the nursey to see what tree options they have available.

1. Black Hills Spruce
  2. Northern White Cedar
  3. Alternative Leaf Dogwood
  4. American Elm-St. Croix
  5. American Plum
  6. Butternut
  7. Kentucky Coffeetree
  8. Ohio Buckeye
  9. River Birch
  10. Serviceberry
  11. Showy Mountain Ash
  12. Swamp White Oak
- EAB Status: Forester Bond stated that EAB has not been detected yet in North St. Paul. The closest that has been detected is seven blocks west of Beaver Lake in St. Paul. Public Works is actively searching for signs and symptoms of EAB in Blvd. and Park trees, as well as private trees when inspection requests come in. Public Works is in the process of getting bids for treating trees. Vice Chair Olson asked what the criteria is to treat trees. Bond stated they are potentially looking to treat high value trees in Park. Vice Chair Olson inquired about tree companies doing work in town if they need to be licensed. Stachowski stated that tree companies that do work in North St. Paul need to be licensed. Community Development Department has the list of licensed tree companies. Josh reviewed the tree inventory images with the Commission from 2011 and 2017. The Ash population has been decreased by 7% so far due to street projects removals and off-project year removals. Chair Olson shared with the Commission information regarding the WASP watcher program.
  - Gravel Bed Dumpster Method: Forester Bond said the Gravel Bed Dumpster is going well. There is a cost savings to growing trees via gravel bed versus buying them at a nursey. Bond shared tree root photos with the Commission.
  - Improving Community Forests Through Citizen Engagement Grant. Forester Bond stated that the grant is going well. He stated that 25-30 volunteers helped plant 100 trees along the state trail. He stated the tree seward class was pushed back to June 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm. Bond also shared information regarding the citizen pruner program.

**B. Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Environmental Newsletter Articles. Gustafson stated that all articles need to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated that she tried to contact the Master Gardeners Coordinator regarding a pollinator article, but had not heard back. Simba stated that she would follow up with the Master Garden coordinator regarding the article. Listed below is a list of proposed articles.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Coordinating</u>
Fix It Clinic	Debra (completed)
Pollinators	Debra contacted the masters Gardener regarding an article

Organic Compost	Debra (completed)
Adopt A Drain	Simba
Pruning & Watering	Glen
Leaf Management &	Glen
Fall Yard Care	
Recycling Survey Results	Debra, if results are ready time of newsletter
Pumpkin Drop	Debra (completed)
Electric Rebates	Debra (completed)
Clean Energy	Debra (completed)

C. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Highway 36 Landscaping. Liaison Gustafson stated that she spoke with the Public Works Director regarding the MNDot Landscape Partnership Program, he said he would be on board for one year then would like to review the project and how it went prior to committing to additional project years, The Commission and Liaisons Stachowski and Gustafson thought the Planters would be a good project to start with. Liaison Gustafson stated the next step to move forward with the project is to have City Council approve a Project Resolution to be included with the application.

**On motion by Vice Chair Olson, seconded by Chair Springborn with all present voting aye, motion carried to recommend to City Council to approve a Resolution to apply for the MNDOT Landscape Partnership Application to do a planting at a cost of up to \$10,000 along highway 36.**

## IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- A. **Review/Discussion: Review/Discussion:** Opening On EAC. Gustafson stated she asked Laurie in Community Relations to put a notice of the opening on the channel 16 crawl.
- B. **Review/Discussion:** Recycling Survey Update. Gustafson stated 270 people have already completed the survey online. The City will be accepting paper and online surveys until June 30<sup>th</sup>!

## X. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- A. **Review/Discussion:** Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Update. Commissioner Olson stated there has been one community meeting so far, Olson stated he was unable to attend the meeting.
- B. **Review/Discussion:** Historical Society Plant Sale: Chair Springborn stated the event went really well this year. However, since the nursery they receive the plants from is going out of business this year may be the historical societies last plant sale. Chair Springborn said that Commissioner Tolbert-Ireland attended the Plant Sale and did a good job handing out EAC materials to plant sale attendees.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Blood, seconded by Chair Springborn, with all present voting aye, motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

***Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting June 26, 2017***