



CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL

1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016 AT 6:00PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call
3. New Business
 - 3.A. Approve January 6, 2016 Minutes
Documents: [010616.PDF](#)
 - 3.B. Arbor Day Planning
4. Old Business
 - 4.A. Pollinator Resolution Update
Documents: [RESOLUTION - POLLINATORS.PDF](#)
 - 4.B. Update On Grants
5. Subcommittee Update
6. Other
7. Adjourn

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Minutes
West St. Paul Environmental committee
January 6, 2016
West St. Paul Municipal Center-Administrative Conference Room

1. ROLL CALL

Committee members in attendance: John Margot, Jonathan Wagner, Chris Gevara, Sheila Williams-Ridge, Megan McGuire, Lauren Smith, Jessica Vanella-Friendshuh

Non-voting members present: Bob Gausman, Dave Schletty

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. MINUTES

The minutes from the December 2, 2015 meeting were approved by the committee.

b. 2016 RULES OF ORDER

No changes were made to the rules of order. Gausman gave some insight to the origins to the Rules of Order. Col. Robert, a civil engineer after the Civil War attended over 20,000 meetings. He took copious notes during his meetings and [composed] the "Rules of Order."

A motion was made to accept the Rules of Order. The motion carried. All Ayes

In a secret ballot, Chris Gevara was elected Chair of the Committee and Megan McGuire was elected Vice Chair.

A motion was made to accept the election of the officers. The motion carried. All Ayes.

c. DNR COMMUNITY FOREST GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Clpn. Armon contacted Schletty regarding an opportunity to get funding to encourage citizen involvement in community forests. Uses of the grant include: performing a tree inventory, updating tree conditions, tree plantings, equipment purchases, tree mulch, and outreach. EAB workshops would be eligible. The DNR is willing to conduct classes on EAB. There is a one month deadline for the grant. Funds would be reimbursed to the city. Schletty will "handle the grant writing." He will also bring the grant opportunity to the Park Board.

Schletty recommended to the committee that grant money be spent on the Arbor Day Celebration and outreach to volunteers. Volunteer training on EAB inspection and infestation would be good. The workshop lasts one to two hours. There are areas of West St. Paul that are more susceptible to EAB; the volunteer coordinator [Diane Erickson] can also help.

A motion was made to permit the Parks and Recreation Director to go forward [and write] the grant. The motion carried. All Ayes.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Pollinator Friendly City Resolution

The committee discussed examples of resolutions from Mendota Heights, South St. Paul Shorewood, and Stillwater.

Borrowing parts from the resolution examples, the committee put together the following resolution:

Whereas, the West St. Paul City Council and the Environmental Committee are dedicated to the protection of pollinators and to promoting a healthy natural environment through the reduction and elimination of harmful pesticides; and

Whereas, pollinators including honey bees, native bees, and butterflies are integral to a wide diversity of essential foods including fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

Whereas, pollinators are facing annual declines in excess of what is considered normal due to habitat loss, pesticide use, pathogens, and parasites; and

Whereas, research shows multiple interacting causes are contributors to the severe decline of pollinator populations, including pathogens, habitat loss, exposure to pesticides, and synergistic effects of herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides; and

Whereas, scientific evidence around neonicotinoid insecticides including clothianidin, thiamethoxam, and imidacloprid is especially compelling and deserves action; and

Whereas, neonicotinoid pesticides that are harmful to pollinators are harmful to other invertebrates, birds, and aquatic animals.

Whereas, the City Council finds it is in the public interest to demonstrate its commitment to a safe and healthy community for people as well as pollinators through the implementation of pest management practices in maintenance of the city parks, open spaces, and city property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota:

1. The City shall undertake its best efforts to become a Bee-Safe City by undertaking best management practices in the use of plantings and pesticides in all public spaces within the city.

2. The City shall refrain from the use of systemic pesticides known to be harmful to pollinators.

3. The City shall undertake its best efforts to plant flowers favorable to bees and other pollinators in the City's public spaces.

4. The City shall designate Bee-Safe areas in which future City plantings are free from systemic pesticides including neonicotinoids.

5. The City shall undertake best efforts to communicate to West St. Paul residents the importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator-friendly habitat.

6. The City shall publish a Bee-Safe City Progress Report on an annual basis.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of West St. Paul urges all West St. Paul property owners, residents, businesses, institutions, and neighborhoods to become more pollinator-friendly by adopting practices including:

-Committing to not use pesticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property;

-Avoiding planting flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;

-Planting more pollinator forage on their property and organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices.

Committee members commented:

They liked the Stillwater resolution. It was science-based and written for residents.

Schletty said that the resolution would not affect city practices. The city does not use neonicotinoids and does not use harmful pesticides.

Committee members would like to discourage purchase of plants raised with systemic pesticides. A clarification needs to be made of what is a systemic pesticide and what is a neonicotinoid. A committee member asked if there can be designated West St. Paul green spaces and "bee-safe" areas.

The committee chose not to address herbicides and fertilizers.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

No Updates.

5. OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **Arbor Day Celebration Event.** Schletty asked the committee if member s would like to have the event with Garlough School again this year or to have a stand-alone event, possibly at the Harmon Park Neighborhood Center. Committee members said that the event rode "on the coat tails" of the Garlough School event but was good exposure. The committee might put on an EAB workshop at the celebration. Instead of just trees, other prize giveaway suggestions included seed balls and potted (pollinator) plants for apartment dwellers. Milkweed was also mentioned. The prize budget is \$200. The event will be discussed at the March meeting. Schletty would like to "get the word out" for the event and work with the Social Media Specialist.

- b. **AARP Age Friendly Communities**

A committee member asked if West St. Paul is interested in becoming an age friendly community. Minneapolis has recently been designated as an age-friendly

community by AARP. Some of the factors for this are: having [safe] sidewalks, economic [opportunities] and connections to community.

c. Dakota County Grants/SHIP-

Schletty asked the committee if they endorsed his pursuing a Dakota County SHIP grant. Money from this grant would be used to administer plans like the Bid Ped Master Plan, or as part of a comprehensive plan under food policy, (i.e. "Food Desert.")

A motion was made to support the Parks and Recreation Director to go forward with both grants. The motion carried. All Ayes.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Committee and with no objections, the Environmental Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:14 pm.

**CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
RESOLUTION NO. 16-**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING POLLINATORS AND POLLINATOR HABITAT

WHEREAS, the West St. Paul City Council and the Environmental Committee are dedicated to the protection of pollinators and to promoting a healthy natural environment through the reduction and elimination of harmful pesticides; and

WHEREAS, pollinators including honey bees, native bees, and butterflies are integral to a wide diversity of essential foods including fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, pollinators are facing annual declines in excess of what is considered normal due to habitat loss, pesticide use, pathogens, and parasites; and

WHEREAS, research shows multiple interacting causes are contributors to the severe decline of pollinator populations, including pathogens, habitat loss, exposure to pesticides, and synergistic effects of herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence around neonicotinoid insecticides including clothianidin, thiamethoxam, and imidacloprid is especially compelling and deserves action; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoid pesticides that are harmful to pollinators and are harmful to other invertebrates, birds, and aquatic animals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the public interest to demonstrate its commitment to a safe and healthy community for people as well as pollinators through the implementation of pest management best practices in maintenance of the city parks, open spaces, and city property; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota:

1. The City shall undertake its best efforts to become a Bee-Safe City by implementing best management practices in the use of plantings and pesticides in all public spaces within the city.
2. The City shall refrain from the use of systemic pesticides known to be harmful to pollinators, specifically but not limited to those that contain neonicotinoid.

3. The City shall undertake its best efforts to plant flowers favorable to bees and other pollinators in the City's public spaces.
4. The City shall designate Bee-Safe areas in which future City plantings are free from systemic pesticides including neonicotinoids.
5. The City shall undertake best efforts to communicate to West St. Paul residents the importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator-friendly habitat.
6. The City shall publish a Bee-Safe City Progress Report on an annual basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of West St. Paul urges all West St. Paul property owners, residents, businesses, institutions, and neighborhoods to become more pollinator-friendly by adopting practices including:

- Committing to not use pesticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property;
- Avoid planting flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;
- Planting more pollinator forage on their property and use organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul this 22th day of February, 2016

Ayes:

Nays:

Attest:

David Meisinger, Mayor

Chantal Doriott, City Clerk