



**CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL**  
1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

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**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016 AT 6:00PM**  
**MUNICIPAL CENTER**  
**ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call
3. New Business
  - 3.A. Approve May 4, 2016 Minutes  
Documents: [050416.PDF](#)
  - 3.B. Site Plan Review For 963 Robert St  
Memo and Plan will be emailed directly to members prior to the meeting.  
Documents: [6-1-16 SITE PLAN MEMO.PDF](#), [6-1-16 SITE PLAN.PDF](#)
4. Old Business
  - 4.A. Priority List Of Agenda Items  
Documents: [PRIORITY TOPICS.PDF](#)
  - 4.B. Arbor Day Recap
  - 4.C. EAB Update
5. Subcommittee Update
6. Other
7. Adjourn

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*If you need an accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at  
651-552-4100, TDD 651-322-2323 at least 5 business days prior to the meeting  
[www.wspmn.gov](http://www.wspmn.gov) EOE/AA*

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**Minutes**  
**West St. Paul Environmental committee**  
**May 4, 2016**  
**West St. Paul Municipal Center-Administrative Conference Room**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Committee members in attendance: Jon Thompson, Jonathan Wagner, Chris Gevara, Lauren Smith, Kristy Otte, Jessica Vanella-Friendshuh

Excused: Megan McGuire, Sheila Williams-Ridge

Non-voting members present: Bob Gausman, Dave Napier, Dave Schletty

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. MINUTES**

The minutes from the April 6, 2016 meeting were approved by the committee.

**b. SITE PLAN APPROVAL**

Committee members discussed the site plan for 1685, 1701 and 1725 Robert Street South, (the old Sonic and Ideal Credit Union site.) The developer, Venture Pass is proposing a 20,000 square foot space with two new buildings for retail, medical and restaurant use. City staff has approved the plan and requested a recommendation from the committee regarding the planting types and location recommendations. The developer has proposed planting 50 trees and the planting of 353 perennials, grasses and shrubs. With the removal of some trees, the site will have a total of 74 trees. (The code requires 89 trees for size of the site.)

The committee had several questions regarding the site:

- What kind of businesses would be located at the site? Schletty answered: a medical (plasma) center (moved from Southview Center), a restaurant (Raising Cane's) and retail shops.
- Why is the site short of trees? Schletty replied that there was no more room to put more trees. Staff thinks that there is good plant coverage; the developer cannot "shovel" more into the plan. The developer will likely choose plants that are salt tolerant.
- What will be the look of the building? Schletty said that it will look a little like the LA Fitness. The developer will follow "curb" code.
- Wagner asked, "will parking area increase?" Schletty said that it will remain the same. The plan passed staff review and no retention ponds are planned in the site.

- Otte asked, “if the committee cannot demand pollinator-friendly or neonicotinoid-free plantings, can they encourage the developer to choose them in the recommendation?” Schletty replied yes.
- What did Council feel about the plan? Napier replied that there were concerns early on about the way it felt from the street” and adjustments were made regarding the [look.] The Renaissance Plan requires that building be constructed up to the street. Panera is an example of this. The building needs to look good from the street. Council liked the use of the buildings for this site plan. Raising Cane’s is a good restaurant.
- Were driveways removed from the street? Schletty said yes, and connectivity has been improved. There is access to the back of the site and people can drive out back.
- Thompson asked about the trees along Robert Street and how they fit with this site plan. The answer was that there are no trees on the frontage side of the site plan and that the plan for Robert Street is separate from this site plan.

Schletty said that Williams-Ridge had comments about the plan. She liked the sidewalk connections and that keeping half of the trees was “great.”

**After the discussion, a motion was made by Gevara to approve the site plan and to strongly recommend that developers plant perennials and shrubs that have not been treated with neonicotinoids or other non-pollinator friendly pesticides. The motion carried. All Ayes.**

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

#### a. EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

Schletty updated the committee regarding EAB in West St. Paul. He has met with the Department of Agriculture. The Department has done an inspection of the north end of West St. Paul. There have been three different sightings. The infected trees have been taken down.

Schletty is going to report to Council to discuss the EAB action plan. Schletty met with Michael Orange. Orange is working on a sustainability plan for [ash trees] and trying to get more state funding. His plan will look at a “model of value” for the trees and what mode of action to take, (wait and see, treatment, take down or a combination.) The city has set aside thirty thousand dollars for the EAB plan. The city will try to treat as many trees as it can and slow the spread to the whole city.

Napier congratulated the committee on the work they had done for the EAB plan. He said that Council “felt good” about the plan. Orange said that the plan

“wasn’t where it should be,” but was still good. He felt that there should be more funding for the plan.

Gausman, (after talking to an arborist) suggested that the city start gathering Oak Hickory acorns. (It could be done in Cherokee Park.) The acorns would have the ancient DNA and [they could be planted in place of ash trees.] Gausman also suggested putting American Flags or ties on infected trees to raise awareness. Vanella-Friendshuh asked about an awareness campaign. It would be good to warn residents about transporting wood from different areas into West St. Paul.

Schletty said that EAB is on the front page of the City website. There will also be an EAB article in the next newsletter. Residents may be able to treat their own boulevard trees if they are willing to pay for the treatment. Presently the city plans to treat a certain section of the city’s boulevard trees. There may be an opportunity for residents to get a discounted rate for treatment. Trees that have been treated for EAB in the boulevard will be tagged. (The tree inventory will be maintained in the Dakota County GIS system.) The Open House is an opportunity to spread awareness as well.

Schletty said that former member Karen Zumach has volunteered to head a committee to inventory Park trees. She will train volunteers on how to inventory trees correctly.

#### **4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

- i. Arbor Day/Garlough Environmental Committee update. Jon Thompson gave an update on the preparations for the Arbor Day Celebration on May 13. All committee members are strongly encouraged to participate. Southview Garden is donating two Honey Crisp trees. Cardinal Corner is donating bird seed. Thompson has met with Polly, the kindergarten teacher and contact for the fair. He is still waiting to hear back from Dakota County Recycling Zone. The West St. Paul table will again feature the spinning wheel and prize giveaways. There will be no raffle this year. The fair will be from 5-7 pm. Volunteers are asked to come at 4:30 pm. The committee thanks Thompson for his work.

#### **5. OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **a. Community Garden update**

Schletty reported that the community garden will be in the same area as last year in Garlough Park. Not all of the plots have been sold yet.

##### **b. Renaissance Committee**

Gevara gave an update on the Renaissance Committee. The plan calls for building multi-family housing in the northern part of Robert. (Robert and Annapolis.) This would mean building townhomes and apartments. The plot is

not very deep and it has limited use. There may be some retail stores that would serve the multi-housing residents and the senior living facility nearby.

There are no plans for Signal Hills.

There was discussion regarding the old Blockbuster site and possibly having multi-family housing on the site or nearby. Building a new City Hall on Thompson Oaks Golf course site was also a possibility.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business before the Committee and with no objections, the Environmental Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:18 pm.

**TO: ENVIRONMENTAL COMM.**  
**THROUGH: PARK & REC SUPERINTENDENT**  
**FROM: ASSISTANT COMM. DEV. DIR.**  
**DATE: JUNE 1, 2016**



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**SUBJECT:**

CASE #16-08 – Site Plan review for 963 Robert St.

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**REQUEST**

Review Landscape Plan and provide recommendations to the Planning Commission/Council

**BACKGROUND**

Sherman Associates has submitted plans for Site Plan review to construct an addition to their parking lot at 963 Robert St. The parking lot addition will provide access to and from the newly aligned Haskell St. and provide room for a stormwater pond.

Based on the exterior linear feet of the newly created property, code requires a total of 28 trees on-site (1 tree per 20 lineal ft. of property). The applicant is proposing a total of 15 deciduous trees at 2.5 caliper inches and 5 ornamental trees at 2.5 caliper inches for a total of 20 trees. Staff is comfortable with the proposed landscaping despite the reduction in required trees. Staff believes that the proposed plan distributes trees appropriately in areas where they can be located plus the applicant is proposing a total of 85 perennials and shrubs for the site.

With that said, Staff is requesting a recommendation from the Environmental Committee should the committee have recommendations pertaining to planting types and/or locations.

**ATTACHMENT**

Submitted Landscape Plan

**TIMELINE**

June 21: PC public hearing  
June 27: CC public hearing



Priority Topics:

1. Walkable City - Trails and sidewalks, Robert Street and the lack of neighborhood grocery store, ("Food Desert") were grouped under Walkable City.
2. Pollinators
3.
  - A. Community Gardens/Gardening
  - B. City Code Modifications (Residential Lakes and water control issues were grouped under city code modifications.)
  - C. Recycling (including organics)
  - D. Storm Water Management
4.
  - A. Styrofoam/Plastic bag Bans
  - B. Thompson Oaks Golf Course/Preserving Green Space

Other Topics:

- Outdoor Play and Education
- Mud Lake Clean-up and commercial applicators
- Invitations to Bike and walking clubs