

**West St. Paul Environmental Committee
Environmental Committee
September 1, 2021
West St. Paul Municipal Center-City Council Chambers**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Committee members in attendance: Constance LaCombe, Cindy Joanning, Nicholas Hager, Laura Zanmiller, Jade Pennig, Ken Paulman, Lauren Hazenson, Liz Pearson, Joshua Prybylski

Non-voting in attendance: Lisa Eng-Sarne, Dave Schletty

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review Committee Bylaws and Election of Chair/Vice-Chair-

A motion was made to nominate Jade Pennig and Laura Zanmiller Chair and Vice chair of the Committee respectively. Pennig and Zanmiller accepted the nominations. The motion passed. All Ayes.

b. Minutes-The August 4, 2021 minutes were approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. University of MN Environmental Change Class Projects

Schletty reported that the City is full steam ahead” with the University of MN’s class project. Schletty will meet with the students in a couple weeks. They will update Schletty in November on their projects and make a presentation to Council in December. Schletty asked committee members they wanted to partner with the projects; a subcommittee for each project could be formed. Multiple projects could be worked on at the same time. Prybylski volunteered for the Fruit Bearing Trees. Paulman said it would be helpful to get feedback from the students on how to help with the projects. Schletty said that he does not see members actually getting involved with the development of the project. After the University project is completed, Committee Members would take their initiatives and further the plan or proposal. It would be up to staff and the committee to go forward. Paulman asked if this would include Policy recommendations to Council- Schletty said yes; it could also mean education and outreach. Zanmiller and Joanning would like to take on Residential Management. Pearson would be interested in any of the projects. She is interested in compostable containers. LaCombe is also interested in any of the projects, but especially about the city best management plan, Green Cities and bike trails.

4. UPDATES

a. City Council- Lisa Eng Sarne introduced herself to the committee. She is excited to see the committee work move forward, especially with the GreenSteps program. The next steps for Step 3 are traditionally much harder. Giving this work to the U of MN will be very helpful. The current Bike Ped plan (environmental change and equity to access) is 11 years old. However, it was designed to be a 25-year old plan. People have used its age as a reason to resist implementation of sidewalks; the [university] project will help show that the City has looked at the plan with a “new lens.” The plan is still very equitable. At the last Council meeting, Smith Dodd development was discussed. There will be a chance for public engagement. She is happy to answer any questions about this topic.

b. Staff

- i. **Planning Commission-**Schletty announced that Lisa Stevens would be the new Planning Commission liaison to the Environmental Committee.
- ii. **Park and Recreation Committee-**The Marthaler Garlough trail has been completed. The Robert Street tunnel is being built. The tunnel will complete the West St. Paul portion of the trail. The trail is not officially open but open to public use. The Parks and Rec Committee will be working on next steps for Marthaler Park. There is funding available to complete the Master Plan over the next 3 years. There will be a project open house in two weeks to look at the preliminary

plans for the reconstruction. The City Open House will be on September 23. Plans for the park will be available at the open house.

- iii. **GreenSteps**-The City now has a nice Step 3 trophy; there was an online recognition for the City. The next steps, 4 and 5, will address how the City continues the work described in Steps 1-3 and how the City will continue to better itself on the GreenSteps program. Once the City receives the college report from the U, Schletty would like to reestablish the subcommittee for the GreenSteps program.

5. Other--NA.

6. Adjourn

With no other business before the Committee and no objections, the Environmental Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield