

**West St. Paul Environmental Committee
Meeting Minutes
6:00 pm, June 1, 2022
West St. Paul Municipal Center- City Council Chambers**

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Schletty requested that Item 3D be added under new Business, "EV Carshare."

2. Roll Call

Committee members in attendance: Chair Jade Pennig, Nicholas Hager, Lauren Hazenson, Constance LaCombe, Joshua Prybylski, Laura Zanmiller

Absent: Cindy Joanning, Ken Paulman, Liz Pearson

Non-voting members in attendance: Robyn Gulley, Dave Lynch, Dave Schletty

3. New Business-

a. Approve May 4, 2022 Minutes

The May 4, 2022 minutes were approved by the Committee.

b. Site Plan Review for the Development of the Eastern Section of the Previous Thompson Oaks Golf Course (M/I Homes)

Pennig summarized a motion to forward the site plan to Council with the following recommendations:

**Planting additional trees on the west side of the development on the border of the native park area;
Plantings be neonicotinoid free;
Replacing the Japanese tree lilac for a native Minnesota Species such as Redbud or Princess Kay.**

Prybylski seconded the motion. The motion carried. All ayes.

c. Smart Salting Initiatives

Schletty reported that Councilperson Eastman had recently attended a smart salting class for city leaders. It was put on by the MPCA and Dakota County. She shared the information with City staff. There are opportunities for the City as part of the GreenSteps Cities program to model ordinances on chloride reduction and educational pieces that could be used for outreach for smart salting.

The Committee discussed smart salting options. Hazenson is interested; she would like to see Thompson Lake removed from the impaired waters list for chloride. . Zanmiller said [the initiative] is important; especially for residents who throw salt on sidewalks in winter. Hazenson said that small business owners should also be informed. LaCombe would like to investigate alternatives to salt. Hazenson said grit is a good option. Sand contributes to sediment collecting in areas. People should be trained in not over salting. There are brining solutions that could be used. There are many resources from Clean Water MN, Hamline University and from local watershed organizations. Most MS4 permit holders are required to do smart salting. Zanmiller asked if there were incentive programs for smart salting. Gulley said this could be investigated. Schletty suggested looking at other communities to see what they are doing. LaCombe said that South Dakota uses urea. Hazenson also talked about home water softener systems. They can also contribute to the problem. The waste water system does not necessarily filter out the salts from the systems; it can end up in the lakes, rivers and streams. Schletty said that the City does use brining on its

streets to use less salt. The brining is effective because it sticks to the streets and does not wash away as fast as [plain] salting. It, however, still contains salt. Pennig said that this could be one of the Committee's educational initiatives. Part of the GreenSteps initiatives is to educate residents about the environmental impacts of salt.

d. Evie Carshare

Schletty reviewed the information sent by the City Manager. It is a multi-family car-sharing program sponsored by HOURCAR. The program has gone into effect in the downtown Minneapolis area. Car-sharing sites are located at multifamily housing complexes. The program has income restrictions, and is looking for sites with mixed income or affordable housing. The program wants to engage the community on the benefits of car-sharing/electric vehicles and shared mobility. The deadline for the application is the end of June. In late summer, sites would be selected. Then [community]engagement would be done and final site selections would be made. Installations would be performed over the winter. Spring 2024 would be the end of the pilot period.

Pennig said there is only one Evie charging station presently in West St. Paul, (Thompson Park.) There will be a need for charging stations in the future. Gulley talked about the new developments in West St. Paul. The City could speak to the new people coming into West St. Paul. They may be willing to work with the City. Gulley could speak to the City Manager about this opportunity. LaCombe suggested having HOURCAR have a table at the Environmental Fair. Hazenson likes the idea as an environmentally friendly opportunity, as well as an accessibility opportunity. It would be good to reach out to existing apartment buildings. It may be a job for the equity workgroup or city staff to speak to the developments.

4. Old Business

a. Recap of Arbor Day/Migratory Bird Da Event

Schletty reported that it was a great day with nice weather. The tree was planted and the proclamation was declared. Many people came to Garlough Park for the restoration event. The event went very well. It is a good step in planning future events. Pennig said it was our first plum tree. Many children helped with planting. It was a good event to get youth involved. Prybylski added that his child was one of the children that helped water the new tree. Pennig thanked the Great River Greening group for the event promotion.

b. Recap of No Mow May 2022

It was a successful campaign; the city distributed 100 laminated signs to residents. There were about 145 total registrants in total. The number is bigger than 145 with people printing their own signs. There were also non West St. Paul residents (St. Paul and Eagan) that tried to register with West St. Paul in order to obtain a sign. Of those that registered, they were 45 percent Ward III, 26 percent Ward I and 29 percent Ward II. It was a good program and the City will endorse and promote it next year. An email list was generated from the registrants; Schletty will send out a reminder for next year for participants to "dig out their signs."

5. Updates

a. Subcommittee

- i. **Environmental Fair-Subcommittee and Planning**-Pennig reported that the subcommittee has made some progress. They have generated a list of ideas, will reach out to different vendors, and source a vendor for electric lawn equipment. Two-stroke engines are one of the dirtiest

polluters that people use all time. Leaf blowers are also big polluters. The City may be able to reach out to Tesla; many car dealers are getting into the electrical vehicle game. The City has also reached out to Bicycle Bill regarding bike tune-ups. Schletty said that he has some interest. It is progressing. LaCombe mentioned that the City could do some outreach on the website to vendors who would like a space at the fair. Pennig said that Explore West St. Paul website is fully operational. There is no fee for an educational booth. For vendors that want to sell on-site, there is a \$40 fee. The subcommittee talked about a recycling sorting game and the best practices for recycling. Gulley asked if the City could ask food trucks/vendors to use compostable/recyclable materials. Schletty said he could investigate an incentive program for using compostable/recyclable products. The City uses compostable plates and utensils at its events. Pennig said the subcommittee would like Dodge Nature and the Soil and Water conservation district to have a presence/educational booth. The Committee can have an educational booth as well and educate residents on their initiatives. The subcommittee also talked about having Bird scooters; Schletty said that the City is trying to come up with a pilot program with Bird scooters.

- ii. **City Website and Environmental Initiatives**-Pennig reported that Pearson provided information to fill in the gaps in the website. Pennig said that she would like the subcommittee to look at the Sunfish Lake website for ideas.

b. City Council-

- i. **No Mow May**- Gulley thanked everyone who participated in No Mow May. It was a big success.
- ii. **Robert Street**- Gulley asked the Committee to brainstorm on ideas to make Robert Street more pedestrian-friendly and visually appealing.

c. Staff

- i. **Goals and Objectives Planning**- Schletty said he is working on goals and objective planning for the Committee. The Committee will always have Arbor Day/Migratory Bird Day on the calendar. Hopefully, the Environmental Fair will be an on-going event. By using the University of MN report and the GreenSteps program, the Committee will have a clear-cut direction for planning. The strategic plan and Council direction will also guide Committee work.
- ii. **City Hall Construction**- There has been a month-long delay in the completion. City Hall has changed its summer business hours to Monday through Thursday, 7 am- 4:30 pm and Fridays, 7 am- 11am. Pennig asked Committee members to brainstorm on their one-year and three-year goals for the Environmental Committee.

d. Planning Commission-NA

e. Parks & Recreation Committee

Lynch reported the Park Board Committee now has full membership. Many of the ideas generated by the Board will have an environmental aspect. Members are excited to work on a joint subcommittee for these initiatives. Donna Lindberg came to the last Park Board meeting. She is on a neighborhood group that does a lot of environmental work in Marthaler and Garlough Parks. Lynch suggested Michael and

Environmental Committee Meeting

June 1, 2022

Page 4

Benita of Mr. Michael's Bicycles as a resource for a bicycle booth. They do a lot of charitable work like bike giveaways. Pennig suggested Marthaler Park as a location for an Evie charging station.

6. **Other-NA**

7. **Adjournment**-The Committee adjourned at 7:26 pm.