

**West St. Paul Environmental Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**6:35 pm, November 2, 2022**  
**West St. Paul Municipal Center- City Council Chambers**

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

**2. Roll Call**

Committee members in attendance: Chair Jade Pennig, Nicholas Hager, Laura Hazenson, Connie LaCombe, Ken Paulman, Elizabeth Pearson, Joshua Prybylski, Laura Zanmiller

Non-voting members in attendance: Robyn Gulley, Dave Schletty, Lisa Stevens, Emily Vergin

**3. Citizen Comments-NA**

**4. New Business**

**a. Approve October 5, 2022 Minutes**

The October 5, 2022 minutes were approved by the Committee.

**b. Site Plan Review, 1 Mendota Road**

Schletty reviewed the submitted plan for 1 Mendota Road, the Northern Service Center. Dakota County wants to build a health care center with in the existing property. The county plans to parcel out a small piece of the property. They are partnering with Guild Incorporated to build a 15,000 square foot, 16-bed mental health crisis and recovery center in the northeast corner of the property.

**A motion was made to approve the site plan with the recommendation that the developer use non-neonicotinoids pesticides and native pollinator-friendly plants in the landscaping. The motion carried. All Ayes.**

**c. Climate Action Plan**

Schletty related that LaCombe attended the conference and her notes are included in the meeting documents. LaCombe said she put in all the links to information on the document. There is a link to good information on the GreenSteps. She did receive a follow-up letter from the conference asking how they could help. She asked if any other members would like to respond with her on a call.

**d. Arbor Day Planning**

Members discussed intertwining the Arbor Day celebration with the Explore West St. Paul Days event. A tree would be planted in Harmon Park after the parade Saturday morning. The tree could be part of the parade and perhaps sponsored by Southview Garden. Schletty suggested that the committee have their own [float] in the parade to promote their activities. Instead of throwing candies, they could distribute seed packets. Pennig talked about involving Migratory Bird Day celebration into the West St. Paul Days/Arbor Day event as well. Pearson suggested "piggy backing" with Dodge Nature Center's bird watching event. Schletty said that Dodge Nature is interested in partnering with the West St. Paul Days event. Pearson and Prybylski volunteered for the Arbor Day/West St. Paul Days subcommittee.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Discuss Committee's Core Values**

Schletty talked about the work that the Park and Recreation Committee the process in which the Committee is developing their core values. Vergin also talked about the work as well. Pearson said that the Environmental Committee could adopt the same values as the Park and Recreation Committee. Vergin

agreed. Hazenson agreed but qualified that she is not comfortable defining "Equity." There is an equity work group. She would defer to their expertise. Committee members talked about the "Safety" core value and said that it may not be relevant to their work. Prybylski suggested aligning core values with other committees but not needing the exact same list. There is no need to adopt the safety core value. Pearson suggested that committee members look at the list of core values and do some "creative writing" on the values. The work could be synthesized. Pennig said she would send the working document to Schletty and asked that he send the document to committee members.

## 6. Updates

### a. Subcommittee

- i. **Zoning Code Amendments-Continued Discussion-** Schletty said that he would sit down with the City Planner to look at code and highlight a few sections that would be worth changing. He would then send the highlights to the subcommittee and ask them what they would like to see [change.] The three of them could work together to work on amending the code.
- ii. **GreenSteps Cities Review-**Schletty said that the Committee might work on a Climate Action plan and extract from that what they do for GreenSteps Cities. Paulson said that the committee might need to develop a resolution. Schletty said that Council is on board with a resolution. The City plans to hire a new recycling coordinator. The position will be expanded to a 40-hour position and the extra time will be spent on sustainability issues and the GreenSteps program.

### b. City Council

- i. **National Community Survey Results-** Gulley reported it was the first time the City used this survey tool. The City received a lot of useful data.
- ii. **Community Center-** Many residents came to the last Council meeting to talk about a community center. The City will do a feasibility study for a future center. The City currently does not have any funding for a community center.
- iii. **Election Day-** Gulley implored residents to vote next Tuesday or vote early at the Dakota County office.

### c. Staff

- i. **Community Center-** Schletty said the feasibility study for a community center would be tied into the Park Master Plan. There will be a presentation to Council on this at the next worksession.
- ii. **Removal of Invasive Species-Marthaler/Garlough Parks-** Work will start this winter. It will give Marthaler Park a different look.
- iii. **Thompson Oaks-** The work has progressed. The Dakota County trail project is removing contaminated soils and the soils with prairie land. The county is also installing a stormwater management system. There will be a three-year maintenance plan to get the plantings well established at the site. Right next to the trail is the townhouse development. The project is moving along very well. Infrastructure is going in and the foundation is in for the first six units.

### d. Planning Commission- NA

- e. **Parks & Recreation Committee-** Vergin reported that the last meeting was the work session that both committees just attended. At the last meeting, the Parks and Recreation Committee talked about the upcoming Halloween event. There was also discussion on the park naming policy. There was also a presentation made regarding the history and management of the Sports Dome.

## 7. Other-NA

8. **Adjournment-**The Committee adjourned at 7:41 pm.