

West St. Paul Environmental Committee
Meeting Minutes
6:00 pm, March 1, 2023
West St. Paul Municipal Center- City Council Chambers

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Committee members in attendance: Chair Jade Pennig, Nicholas Hager, Lauren Hazenson, Ken Paulman, Liz Pearson, Joshua Przybylski, Laura Zanmiller

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

3. Citizen Comments-NA

4. New Business

a. Approve February 1, 2023 Minutes

The February 1, 2023 minutes were approved by the Committee.

b. Addendum- introduction of new Recycling Coordinator Courtney Selstad

c. Garlough World Fair and Dance

Schletty talked about the fair; it was formerly called the Garlough Environmental Fair. It has been rebranded. Abigail Hendricks, a teacher at the school, is inviting the Committee to be part of the event on May 5, Friday evening 4-6pm at Garlough School. Pennig, Zanmiller and Przybylski volunteered for the event.

5. Old Business

a. Core Values Discussion

Paulman talked about his work on the Core Values statement. Committee members made suggestions on the document. Schletty said that once the document is finished, he would place it on the front of the committee webpage.

b. Heritage Middle School Community Garden

Hager spoke to Brianna Havir; she is spearheading the project. The city would need to sign a form in order for the school to receive the grant money.

c. Arbor Day Planning

Przybylski reported that he and Pearson have been working on the event sponsorship. Supplies (seed packets, stickers, banners etc.) have been ordered through the city. They are working with Selstad with the games and the booth content. He would like help with the seed packets and with the content on the website.

6. Updates

a. Subcommittee

- i. **GreenSteps Cities Review-** Paulson reported that he reached out to Sean Gosiewski regarding greenhouse gas assessment and resilient cities and communities. Gosiewski gave examples of cities that have gone through the benchmarking process. It is through the Regional Indicators Initiative, (RII). RII measures the entire cities emission and breaks it down by sector. RII costs \$3,500 a year to cover costs.

b. City Council

- i. **Dodge Nature Center Winter Fun Fest-** Gulley reported that Dodge Nature Center put on a great Winter Fun Fest last week. It received excellent reviews.
- ii. **Explore West St. Paul Days-** Council is getting ready for the event.

c. Staff

i. Planning for Summer projects

1. **Replacement of AstroTurf in Sports Dome**-Schletty has received some bids for the replacement.
2. **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Treatments**-Schletty has received bids for the boulevard treatments as well. There is a new contract and residents can get a reduced rate for private tree treatment as well from the same company.
3. **Trail improvement grant**-the city is trying to get new equipment and a new staff person to work on the new trails.
4. **Department of Natural Resources grant for EAB**- this grant would help with the city's boulevard tree inventory. The new data would be tracked more efficiently in a GIS system.
5. **Marthaler Park Redevelopment**-The project will "kick off" this spring. The bidding process will occur later this month. The work will be done through summer and into the beginning of next year.

ii. **Park and Recreation Activities**-Schletty reported the program opened up registration yesterday. The registration numbers doubled from last year. He advised everyone not to wait registering for programs.

iii. **Council Strategic Planning Retreat**- The retreat will be next weekend. Staff attends the retreat as well. Ideas and projects are welcomed from all the committees. GreenSteps is one of the projects that Council will review. Committee members suggested updating out of date zoning code required parking, tree species, minimum numbers for trees.

iv. **Committee T-shirts**- Schletty asked if members had a color preference. He will email members with the design of the shirt.

d. Planning Commission- Stevens reported that at the last Commission meeting, members discussed "cleaning up" the land use map and ordinances codes. They also discussed THC retailers and the zoning required around schools.

e. Parks & Recreation Committee- Vergin reported that the Committee talked about their involvement in either the Open House or the Environmental Fair. They are more leaning toward the Open House. They also talked about their Core Values and their individual park assignments. There will be further discussion about the naming of the parks; it will be a focus of the next fair event. The public will be involved. There were updates on the Marthaler and Garlough Park System plan.

7. Other

a. **Vacant Position**- Schletty said the application deadline was this week. Staff will review these applications soon.

b. **Trees**- A representative at the Real Life Cooperative at Emerson spoke. The Cooperative has removed ash trees from their property. She asked for recommendations on what type of tree to plant. Schletty said that he would make recommendations.

8. Adjournment-The Committee adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon G. Hatfield

Administrative Specialist