



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 5:30 PM

**Council Chambers - City Hall, 3rd Floor
1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:32 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members: Present: Darla LeClair, Donald DeBruyn, Doug Brandt, Corinne Weis

Excused: Tracey Koach, Jake Glaeser, Shannon Derby

Absent: Jay Orvis

Staff: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scot Ahl

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the July 18, 2023, Environmental Advisory Board Meeting

Corinne Weis made a motion to approve the July 18, 2023, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Doug Brandt. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC INPUT - None

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Review & modify EAB Mission Statement and Objectives

Matthew Heckenlaible brought the Advisory Board up to date regarding the discussion that occurred at the August 28, 2023, City Council Work Session. The directive provided by the City Council was that they were not comfortable with the proposed name change of the board, mission statement, or goals and objectives. There was concern about the Board trying to secure grants when the Board does not have a budget to work with. Greg Buckley, City Manager, proposed working on modifications to the revisions such that they could be discussed at this Board meeting. Copies of the modifications were presented to the Board members after which additional discussion occurred. One of the first items noted that the proposed Board name, "Environmental Protection, Sustainability and Resiliency Advisory Board" seemed to long and cumbersome; and, after further discussion, came to a consensus that the name should remain as the "Environmental Advisory Board" and that items such as sustainability and resiliency should remain within the 'mission statement' and 'goals and objectives.' The Board members present wished to hold this item over to the next meeting with hopes that additional members would be present to provide their opinion in this discussion.

B. Status of Northeast Lakeshore TMDL

Matthew Heckenlaible noted that there is nothing new regarding the Northeast Lakeshore TMDL. Scott Ahl attended a Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium Stormwater Quality Management workshop on September 14, 2023, in Oshkosh. A portion of the workshop was to provide members additional knowledge of available "Tools in the Toolbox for Community-Wide TMDL Compliance" presented by the WDNR. Scott stated that the most economical stormwater quality practice is still the wet pond based upon cost of treated area. There are other practices such as bio-retention, mechanical and filter proprietary devices, and infiltration basins. All of which treat less area and cost more to construct and maintain. WDNR was also

mentioning that they are evaluating and establishing guidelines for other practices which may include chemical additives to wet ponds to be able to capture even more phosphorus than a traditional system. There were also discussions pertaining to Community wide TMDL implementation plans which provides communities the ability to meet the TMDL requirements over a longer duration of time if the community continues to make progress towards the end goal. Scott also stated that there was discussion regarding long term maintenance and inspections of 'private' stormwater facilities. Are they being completed? If so, by who and are they being documented? This will be something that City staff will need to investigate further to review what properties and past projects would fall under this category and possibly establishing a program to provide future documentation of inspections and completed maintenance on 'private' stormwater facilities.

6. ON-GOING PROJECTS

A. Front Yard Vegetable Garden update

Darla LeClair noted that United Way approached her to talk with them about their Hunger Task Force and Housing Coalition. Darla and Elizabeth Runge, Director of Economic Development / City Planner, sat in on discussions and concluded that there is a good opportunity for future partnership.

Darla noted that at the July 2023 Plan Commission meeting, they voted not to support the Front Yard Vegetable Garden program for 2024 due to lack of participation. The Plan Commission recommendation was advisory and it was brought forward to the City Council which, after much discussion, would allow the program to continue into 2024.

Darla also noted that Assembly Bill (AB) 379 was being co-sponsored by Shae Sortwell and Andre Jacque which is the 'right to garden' bill. Darla stated that she will be in Madison, testifying in support of AB-379 on September 20, 2023. Darla also stated that Shae Sortwell and she are trying to get some airtime on Seehafer News to promote AB-379 and the City's Front Yard Gardening program soon.

Corrine Weis stated that she would assist in promoting and getting the word out about Front Yard Gardening.

B. Winter Educational Series

1. 2023 Series Dates: October 5th, November 2nd
2. 2024 Series Dates: January 4th, February 1st, March 7th, April 4th

Darla LeClair provided the Board with a brief update as to the Library Educational Series which kicks off in a few weeks with a presentation on renewable and managing energy and resources on October 5. The November presentation will be an update on the state of the City's parks. Further presentations are still being arranged. The Library is promoting the series. Matthew Heckenlaible stated that he had yet to see anything promoting the educational series and was concerned that others may not be aware of it either. Darla will work on providing additional outreach in promoting the educational series.

C. Sandy Bay Highlands update

Matthew Heckenlaible provided the Board with a brief update that the WDNR has agreed to the concept of pre-treating the stormwater runoff and allowing that water to flow into the existing wetlands for water quantity storage. The City provided McMahon the authorization to move forward with preliminary stormwater management design and conceptual lot layouts in preparation of development of the preliminary plat. The proposed schedule is the preliminary design and lot/road layout would be submitted to the City towards the middle of October so that

a preliminary plat could be presented to the Plan Commission for its November meeting. The goal is to have plans available for bidding towards the end of the year.

7. OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED

A. Corinne Weis stated that she was made aware of a non-native, invasive earthworm. She further noted that all earthworms are non-native to Wisconsin, but in this case, she was referencing the Asian Jumping Worm. It was recently discovered in some compost up in Door County. They present challenges to homeowners, gardeners, and forest managers. She noted that the WDNR has additional information on their website about this earthworm.

B. Corrine also inquired as to whether low growing native pollinator plants could be planted within the terrace area between the sidewalk and the road. Matthew Heckenlaible responded back that he believed that City Ordinance was that only turf grass was allowed and that he would report back to the Board at the next meeting with his findings on 'terrace use.'

C. Doug Brandt inquired as to what our current recycling policy was regarding caps on plastic bottles and whether it was legal for individuals to dig through other peoples' garbage and recycling once it was placed out at the curb. Matthew Heckenlaible, read from Manitowoc County's Solid Waste (recycling) webpage - "Plastic #1 and #2 Bottles – Bottles only: check for a neck. Rinse and flatten. Remove the caps when possible. No tub or pail shaped containers or bottles that contained oil or pesticide. No plastic wraps, films, bags, trays, clam shells, deli trays, pails, packaging peanuts, styrofoam, or any other non-bottle shaped plastic items. Please do not tie milk jugs together or tie in plastic bags. Plastic bags mixed in with plastic containers are a major contaminate and need to be removed by hand; they are not recycled when mixed with plastic bottles. Plastic bags can be recycled through bag recycling drop offs at many local grocers and shopping centers."

Matthew Heckenlaible believed that once the refuse or recyclables were placed out at the curb, if other non-authorized individuals dug through and took items from that location, it would be considered theft. He would provide further feedback at the next Board meeting as to his findings.

8. SET DATE, TIME, AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING(S)

Suggested as Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 5:30 pm

9. ADJOURNMENT: 7:05 pm

Don DeBruyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Doug Brandt. Motion passed.