



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:33 pm

2. **ROLL CALL AND CHECK ON REMOTE PARTICIPANTS**

Board Members Present: Darla LeClair, Donald DeBruyn, Douglas Brandt, Jon Tillotson, Heather Gross

Absent: Jay Orvis, Corinne Weis, Tracey Koach

Staff & Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl, Shannon Derby

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the September 17, 2024, Environmental Advisory Board meeting

Don DeBruyn noted a correction within the published minutes that it should be the “Friends of the Twin Rivers” and not the “Friends of Two Rivers.”

Don DeBruyn made a motion to approve the September 17th, 2024, amended Environmental Advisory Board minutes, seconded by Doug Brandt. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT – N/A**

5. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS: MEMBER UPDATES**

A. **Welcome Heather Gross**

Darla welcomed Heather to the group. Heather informed the group she is a former schoolteacher (math & science) and now is the owner of Wildflower Outdoors on East Street in which they have hosted several events promoting the joys of the outdoors.

B. **Jake Glaser removed to allow Heather to join per 9-member board requirement**

Darla hopes that Jake’s schedule frees up and will welcome him back to the group in the future.

6. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED**

A. **NEW INITIATIVE - SUSTAINABLE FOOD, WATER MONITORING PROGRAM (Tracey)**

Tracey Koach was note present to discuss her sustainable food vision and the water monitoring program. Looking forward to having further discussions on this in the future.

7. ONGOING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED

A. NORTHEAST LAKESHORE TMDL/URBAN NON-POINT SOURCE GRANT

Matthew Heckenlaible noted that since the TMDL has been approved by both the EPA and WDNR, there will be no further updates directly related to the TMDL. However, the updates will be more focused on how the City is looking at achieving the reduction goals set forth within the TMDL. This is what our consultant is working on as part of the Urban Non-Point Source Stormwater Grant. The consultant did not provide a recent update as to their progress related to the grant tasks.

B. VEGETABLE GARDENING UPDATE

Darla informed the Board that she participated in the Plan Commission Meeting that was held on October 14th. The Plan Commission did make a motion to permanently allow produce gardens to be placed within front yards, but the motion failed for lack of majority votes.

The failed motion will be brought forward to the full City Council to review and take action.

C. 2024-2025 WINTER EDUCATIONAL SERIES UPDATE

CANCELED: October 10, 2024 - A Natural Balance - blending trees, nature, art and people – Darla will contact John Durbrow to see if he is still interested in giving this talk.

November 14, 2024 - Birding at Home - attracting and caring for native birds

December 12, 2024 - Rain Gardena - blending style and sustainability

January 9, 2025 - Fins and Scales - conservation, management and recipes for Great Lakes fish

February 13, 2025 - Rest and Relax at Local Parks - incorporating green space, art and recreation

March 13, 2025 - What Would You Do? - keeping wildlife wild

April 10, 2025 - Light Pollution and Animal Confusion

Darla recapped the remaining schedule. Matthew Heckenlaible noted flexibility with the February 13, 2025, date may be needed as an alternative topic/presentation could be slotted for that date.

D. NESHOTAH BEACH PROJECT UPDATE

Mike Mathis, Park & Recreation Director, would be better suited to discuss; but, in his absence, Matthew Heckenlaible stated that the City is working on additional parking along Pierce Street and installing access trails adjacent to Pierce Street from Pierce Street to Garfield Street and around the former baseball field. The grant would also look at making some restroom improvements near the horseshoe pits along with introducing some native plantings.

E. EAB CITY POSTED VIDEO LIBRARY UPDATE

1. Videos In Process

- a. Environmental impacts on Two Rivers commercial fishing (Mike LeClair)
- b. Insects - Their place in our world (Shea Tillotson)

Darla is experiencing some issues editing the videos. Once she works through those problems, she will get other videos posted.

2. Future Topics

- a. Ice Age Trail (Dolly McNulty)
- b. Recycling (John Reisenbuechler)
- c. Light Pollution and Animal Confusion (Michael Ditmer)
- d. Climate Change - Action for Climate Emergency (Marco Marquez)

8. OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED – N/A

9. TREE/FORESTRY/POLLINATOR INITIATIVES

This new topic heading has been added to assist Mike Mathis in vetting tree and forestry items through a committee in order to continue to apply for future grants such as the Urban Forestry Grant. Mike has proposed to facilitate over one EAB meeting per quarter to help promote the Tree/Forestry/Pollinator initiatives. The first meeting Mike would be participating in would be the November 2024 meeting.

A. URBAN FORESTRY GRANT UPDATE

Mike Mathis will provide an update at the November board meeting.

B. ARBORETUM UPDATE

Darla requested Matthew Heckenlaible provide an update pertaining to the Arboretum.

Matthew Heckenlaible started off by acknowledging that the Arboretum is a great place and amenity to the City, similar in concept to Woodland Dunes. Unfortunately, there is a rift between the Arboretum and the City over the costs of providing sanitary sewer, water and electric services to the Arboretum. The process for determining appropriate costs for the various utilities is being applied in the same manner as for any other property throughout the City and the Arboretum disagrees with those methods. We hope there is a resolution of these differences and opinions to be able to move forward with the continued growth of the Arboretum in the future.

C. BEE CITY DESIGNATION

Darla noted that she had some discussions with Mike Mathis regarding the ability to have the designation of a “Bee City.” There is a \$200 fee associated with this designation along with the need of other sponsorship. It was further noted that there needs to be a ‘committee’ created to ensure that various tasks are completed on an annual basis.

Additional discussions would need to be held with Mike Mathis, potentially at the November board meeting.

D. PADDLERS PARK UPDATE

Darla recapped that a landscaping plan has been created for the park and Mike Mathis, along with other groups, are attempting to find additional funding in order to implement the plan.

Hopefully, Mike Mathis will be able to provide information at the November board meeting including a copy of the proposed plan that has been created.

E. NFWF, GREAT LAKE AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE GRANT UPDATE

Matthew Heckenlaible stated that there are multiple funding sources to these multi-faceted projects. One of the projects involves expanding a beach area between the water utility buildings out past the wastewater utility plant towards the south breakwater. Future planning needs to occur relative to upland amenities such as parking, shelters, access, etc. Other portions of these grants includes sustainability measures (from the north side of the Light House Inn parking lot south along Mariners Trail to the Chamber of Commerce Wayside) and creating additional vegetative buffers to reduce shoreline erosion, slow down roadside stormwater runoff and minimize wind driven sand from blowing onto Memorial Drive (STH 42).

City Staff, along with a Consulting team and members of the funding sources participated in a virtual meeting on September 10th to discuss more of the scope and goals of the projects.

One funding requirement is public participation and outreach occur prior to finalizing any concept plans. The timing would potentially fall around the February 13th, 2025, EAB Educational Series. This could be a great opportunity to provide the public with an update on these projects and obtain their feedback as to various concepts that could be implemented. The EAB was open to this potential modification to the educational series.

F. MONARCH CITY

Mike Mathis will potentially provide an update at the November 2024 board meeting.

10. SET DATE, TIME, AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

Proposed for Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 5:30 pm

11. ADJOURNMENT: 6:37 pm

Darla LeClair made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jon Tillotson. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Matthew R. Heckenlaible
Public Works Director/City Engineer