



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 5:30 PM

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

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: Darla LeClair, Tracey Koach, Jay Orvis, Douglas Brandt, Shannon Derby, Corinne Weis, Donald DeBruyn

Excused: Jake Glaeser

Staff: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the September 19, 2023, Environmental Advisory Board Meeting

Donald DeBruyn made a motion to approve the September 19, 2023, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes, seconded by Corinne Weis. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT** – None

5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

A. **Review & modify EAB mission statement and objectives**

There was a discussion by the Board with the conclusion of keeping the name simple, 'Environmental Advisory Board' (EAB) and to strike language about pursuing funding opportunities and specific language pertaining to extreme weather events, Lake Michigan water level fluctuations and other statements pertaining to costs.

The Board wants to see a cleaned up copy of the Mission Statement at the next meeting and then take further action as deemed appropriate.

6. **ONGOING PROJECTS**

A. **Front Yard Vegetable Garden update**

Darla LeClair stated that Front Yard Vegetable Gardens (FYVG) were approved for 2024. Darla has been in contact with the Two Rivers School Superintendent, Diane Johnson, and the schools will do a competition for creating a 'new' FYVG yard sign for 2024. Darla stated that she hopes that it will be completed early this winter so that it is ready for the growing season. She will reach out to Diane to confirm the timeline.

Doug Brandt had inquired about the raised vegetable gardens at LB Clarke Middle School whether or not they are compliant or will be allowed due to the remodeling that is proposed to take place there. The response provided back was that it would all depend upon where they were located post building construction.

Darla stated that in 2023 she had some agreements with some local businesses to help promote and offer discounts towards the FYVG program. She will attempt to reach back out to these and other businesses for participation in 2024. She is also looking for additional outreach ideas for promoting the FYVG program.

B. Winter Educational Series

1. 2023 Series Dates:

Darla LeClair provided a recap of the October 5th, 2023, presentation on Benefits of Renewable Resources and Energy Conservation. She also stated that people should check out the Focus on Energy website for free energy conservation materials.

November 2nd – Creating Fun and Resilient Parks, by Mike Mathis, Two Rivers Park Director

2. 2024 Series Dates:

- * January 4th - Invasive Species in flora and fauna
- * February 1st - Local Eco-Systems
- * March 7th - Local Stormwater Management, Two Rivers Engineering Staff
- * April 4th - Climate Change, WPPI
- * May 7th – Recycling, Manitowoc County – what can be recycled, where and where does it go from there including yard waste (DPW to coordinate with the County)

C. Sandy Bay Highlands – update

Matthew Heckenlaible stated that an updated layout with modeled stormwater features and revised lot layout was submitted back to the City for review and comment. The proposal was affecting the lots by impacting usable yard spaces, especially in the side and backyards. Discussions were held with City Staff which generated questions and alternatives that were sent back to the Consultant for consideration. The Consultant provided additional follow up and will submit a preliminary plat to the City by the end of October.

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

Corinne Weis inquired about the possibility of implementing “Bee Lawns” – low growing vegetation as an alternative to only turf grass within the roadway terrace area. Director Heckenlaible provided rationale as to why turf grass is the standard within the City’s Municipal Code with a primary factor being safety. Further discussion ensued around this topic. Director Heckenlaible stated that he would pull together “Terrace Use Policies” from other municipalities and see if he can gain the feel of other Department Heads and possible other Council Members as to their views of vegetation other than turf grass within the terrace area. This information could possibly be ready for the next meeting. Discussion also revolved around possibly doing a demonstration project within a turf

planted boulevard section. Director Heckenlaible stated that he may be open to that and would try and see what utilities may be impacted if that were to be done.

Director Heckenlaible stated that he received an email from the League of Municipalities about AB-457/SB-455 – Stormwater Utility Legislation subject of municipal stormwater utilities to the full authority of the Public Service Commission to regulate rates and services. The short version is that this would take away local control on how municipalities fund and administer their stormwater utilities which are necessary due to the unfunded mandate being placed upon municipalities by the EPA and WDNR to clean up stormwater runoff prior to discharging to waters of the State/U.S.

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

Suggested as Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 5:30 pm

9. ADJOURNMENT: 6:59 pm

Donald DeBruyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jay Orvis. Motion passed.