



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:34 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Staff & Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl, Joe Metzen

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the February 20, 2024, Environmental Advisory Board meeting

Tracey Koach made a motion to approve the February 20, 2024, Environmental Advisory Board minutes, seconded by Doug Brandt. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Tourism Director Joe Metzen joined the meeting to find out what the Environmental Advisory Board was all about and see if there were ways that tourism and EAB could collaborate on future projects.

5. **NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED** - None

6. **ONGOING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED**

A. **Paddler's Park**

1. Trial bee lawn mixes

Darla started off stating that she was not aware of any volunteers that were stepping up to assist in planting a bee lawn in the area of Paddler's Park. Darla suggested tabling this until additional assistance could be gathered.

Don DeBruyn suggested that rather than digging, tilling and starting up from bare ground, they just look at overseeding the area with a variety of seed mixes and then remember 'not' to mow that area.

Corinne Weis agreed with that strategy and stated that would need to be coordinated/communicated with Parks staff. The type of seed mixes being considered would be just a clover mix with clover and one additional species or clover with a second alternative species.

A question of who would be paying for the seed arose, of which there was not a response provided.

2. Riparian planting - native species

Corinne Weis came across a planting seed mix available from a magazine/nursery in Minnesota. It came in a roll 15 feet long by 2 feet wide. She stated that she would be willing to purchase one and try it but would be looking to see if she could get a donation slip from the city for her own recording keeping. Corinne stated that she would love to see the shoreline reclaimed and then use this as an educational piece to show what other shoreline property owners could do in restoring their shorelines.

Jay Orvis had a concern with the fluctuation water elevations and spending too much time, energy, and money into something that may end up under water in the future.

Would need to find a seed mix that would tolerate a fluctuation of water levels.

Corinne stated that she would talk with Mike Mathis, Parks Director, to look at coordinating this type of restoration.

3. Volunteers - No outside parties or individuals have stepped up to assist.

B. Two Rivers Fire Department Garden

1. Trial non-traditional/dwarf vegetable plants for FYVG 2024

Darla again stated that she has not found any outside assistance but would speak with the Fire Chief to see if they would take care of it. She will report back.

2. Volunteers - No outside parties or individuals have stepped up to assist.

C. Northeast Lakeshore TMDL

1. WDNR is seeking TMDL service volunteers for stream monitoring

Matthew Heckenlaible handed out an informational sheet that is on the WDNR's Northeast Lakeshore TMDL webpage seeking assistance for monthly stream monitoring. If there was interest in volunteering for this, a group of people could work together to split the duties and it would be advisable to 'buddy up' for safety reasons. Could look at getting credit for community participation towards the WDNR MS4 permit requirements.

Matthew Heckenlaible then went on to speak about the status of the WDNR Urban Non-point Source Stormwater Grant that we have received and what we intend to do with it. City staff had a virtual kickoff meeting with McMahan on March 7 to discuss moving forward with the update of the 2024 City Wide Stormwater Master Plan. Items that the plan will look at modifying include:

- Public Education & Outreach program (EAB Educational Series)
- Construction Site Erosion Control program
- Post-Construction Stormwater Management program
 - Ordinance modifications
 - Long term maintenance of private BMPs
- Pollution Prevention programs
 - Long term maintenance of city owned BMPs

- Catch basin cleaning
 - Street Sweeping
 - Do we need to change the way/when we do things?
 - Nighttime sweeping with parking bans?
- Leaf Collection
 - Do we need to change the way we do things?
 - No raking leaves in the street - leave on terrace?
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans – may not have been reviewed in several years – how do we manage stormwater runoff at municipal owned facilities (shops, cemetery, etc.)
- Review what type of internal staff training has been conducted relative to SWPPPs
- Stormwater Quality Management Plan/TMDL Plan of Action (compliance)
 - What additional Best Management Practices need to be implemented and where?
 - Ponds
 - Green Infrastructure (Swales, bio-filtration, bio-retention, manmade wetlands)
 - Conversion of turf grass areas to native vegetation areas
 - Retrofitting into existing landscape or into reconstruction projects – to be determined
- How do we finance the Stormwater Utility to fund all of the above activities?
 - Flat fee for all residential properties or set a base ERU rate and calculate impervious surfaces for every property and charge based upon impervious surface similar to commercial/industrial.
- For new development discharging into existing stormwater practices, should there be a buy in fee?
- Stormwater Utility Credit Policy (review & modify?)

Will be looking for input from EAB and probably the Public Utilities Committee for input and feedback as we move forward.

Darla LeClair stated that she wanted to make sure that the Board knew that the primary purpose was to assist and educate the community in stormwater and how we get compliance with our stormwater permit. It appears that a lot of people are unaware of what is required to obtain compliance and would suggest that the Board becomes educated so that they can speak more intelligently to the public. We also need to educate the City Council and make sure that they are aware of what it will take to obtain compliance with the MS4 permit requirements.

D. Update on Vegetable Gardening

1. AB 379 / SB 376 updates

The legislative sessions have adjourned. The bills have been introduced and sent to appropriate committees. SB 376 held a public hearing on January 10, 2024, while AB 379 held its public hearing on September 20, 2023, which then had been referred to Committee on Rules on January 4, 2024.

E. Front Yard Vegetable Garden status update

1. Publicizing now

Darla LeClair stated that this is Pilot Program – Year 2 and anticipates it to be run similar to year one, hopefully with better turnout. Darla stated that she anticipates that the application fee would be waived again in order to attract additional applicants.

2. Lining up supply partners – No discussion.

3. Forms and links available on City website

2023 forms and links are on the website and awaiting the opportunity (time) to be updated to 2024. Darla stated that she is hoping to have the user guide that is on-line with active and functional links to other websites and forms.

4. Where do we go from here?

- a. Set up a citizen led cooperative – No discussion.
- b. Self-policing – No discussion.

F. Winter Educational Series

1. 2023-2024 Series Dates

- a. April 4th - Carbon emissions
- b. May 7th - Recycling industry update

2. Possible subjects for series #3 - Need to choose so we can start lining up presenters.

- a. Light confusion
- b. Wisconsin wildlife protection programs
- c. The importance of sustainable development for future generations
- d. Repurposing old materials into new, functional items
- e. Vertical plantings, pollinator/bee lawns, home composting
- f. Promoting the benefits of planting trees (repeat program subject)

Corinne had prepared a short survey that could be passed out to attendees to find out where and how they heard about the Educational Series and what future topics they would be interested in hearing more about. This was something that Shannon was going to work on.

Darla stated that she thought that there were significantly more topics and potential speakers on the list and will find and share it in the future.

G. Senior Center Vertical Planting & Mural Project – status update?

This project is on hold pending additional discussions with Main Street and Parks & Recreation.

7. OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED – None.

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

Proposed for Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 5:30 pm

9. ADJOURNMENT: 6:40 pm

Doug Brandt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Corinne Weis. Motion carried.

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