



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 16, 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 AND CHECK ON REMOTE PARTICIPANTS

Board Members Present: Darla LeClair, Douglas Brandt, Donald DeBruyn, Shannon Deb, Jake Glaser, Jay Orvis
Excused: Tracy Koach
Staff present: Matthew Heckenlaible and Scott Ahl

3. REVIEW LAST MINUTES - APPROVE OR CORRECT

Jay Orvis made a motion to approve the March 21, 2023, Minutes, seconded by Jake Glaser. Motion passed.

4. PUBLIC INPUT - None

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. EAB Mission Statement and objectives update

Darla LeClair stated that Tracey Koach wanted to discuss expanding the mission statement to possibly include sustainability. Since Tracey Koach was not present it was suggested that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

B. Meeting schedule modifications (monthly/bi-monthly meetings)

Darla LeClair asked the advisory board whether they had an opinion on having monthly meetings or meetings every other month trying to acknowledge everybody's busy schedules and trying to make accommodations. There was a consensus of those present about meeting every other month and if something of importance came up, then could schedule a meeting in the off month. Therefore, the next meeting would take place in July.

C. Bat houses

Darla LeClair suggested that this item be held until PJ Stevens could come back and lead the discussion and provide additional information on this topic.

D. Update on Northeast Lakeshore TMDL

It was asked what TMDL stood for, and Director Heckenlaible informed the Board that it was for 'Total Maximum Daily Load'. This will ultimately set new stormwater runoff standards that will be incorporated into the City's WDNR Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit.

E. Front yard vegetable garden pilot program – status update

Darla LeClair stated that she had 7 inquiries prior to getting the approval by the City Council, but no applications have been received. When she reached out to some of them about why they hadn't sent in an application, their response was they were too busy to do so at this time. Darla also noted

that promoting the pilot program was delayed for various reasons which could have impacted the lack of response to date as well. Don DeBruyn stated that he had seen some raised gardens being built in the area that he walks in and was going to take down addresses and send them to Darla for some follow-up. Darla stated that she made a pitch at the City Council meeting on May 15, 2023, that if the program didn't do well in 2023, she would request the pilot program be extended through 2024. Darla suggested forgoing the application fee and extend the application deadline until July 1, 2023, to see if that will boost participation.

Don DeBruyn made a motion to waive the application fee and extend the application deadline to July 1, 2023. Motion was seconded by Jay Orvis. Motion passed.

F. Woodland Dunes residential native plant pollinator initiative

Darla and Jim Knickelbine from Woodland Dunes have had some brief discussions pertaining to a possible partnership with Woodland Dunes in promoting native plantings for residential properties to promote pollinators. Since the discussions were preliminary, Darla will continue to have additional discussions and report back when there is something more to report.

G. Winter Educational Series:

1. There is an upcoming presentation put on by the UW-Manitowoc Master Gardener Volunteers on May 18, 2023, at the Lester Library on the Value and Basics of Pollinator Gardens, Collins Marsh garden and an overview of downtown Manitowoc plantings.
2. The 2023-24 series is proposed to run from October 2023 to April of 2024 with no presentation in the month of December. Darla was looking for topics of interest with some suggestions being: Vertical Plantings, Pollinator Lawns or Bee Lawns, Home Composting, Benefits of Solar Power, Promoting the benefits of planting trees (again). Looking for additional ideas and if any come up, send them over to Darla.

6. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

It was brought up that maybe the City should look at promoting only planting native trees within the City rather than some non-native, invasive trees that were planted on 24th Street several years ago after a road reconstruction project. Public Works Staff will reach out to Park and Recreation to see what the status of their tree inventory is and whether the tree planting guidance document has been updated.

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

Next board meeting: Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 5:30pm

8. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Jay Orvis to adjourn, seconded by Shannon Derby. Motion passed. 6:27 pm.

Please note, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, please contact the Office of the City Manager by calling 793-5532.

It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information; no other action will be taken by any governmental body at the above-stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.