



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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

MINUTES

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

Meeting called to order by Tracey Koach, acting Chair

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Staff and Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the November 21, 2023, Environmental Advisory Board Meeting

Doug Brandt made a motion to approve the November 21, 2023, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes, seconded by Shannon Derby. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT** - None

5. **NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION** - None

6. **ONGOING**

A. **EAB Mission Statement description change update**

Matthew Heckenlaible noted that he needs to finalize the changes and place it on a City Council agenda for discussion and adoption.

B. **Front yard vegetable garden update**

Darla LeClair provided an update:

- Stated the ordinance revision had been adopted by City Council.
- That we need to get the word out about the program and promote it. Darla expressed a desire for additional assistance in getting posters out to area businesses. Corinne Weis stated that she would be willing to help.
- That she has been in contact with the school district and there may be a student interested in creating a new sign.
- Darla stated that she was going to tape a Public Service Announcement that could be played numerous times rather than a single event as a guest at a talk show.
- The Two Rivers Fire Department may have a desire to do a garden and then take advantage of the produce grown at the station.

C. Partnership between the Two Rivers Parks & Recreation Department and EAB for vegetation test plots – update

Darla LeClair stated that they were looking at doing several test plots south of the parking lot at Paddler's Park. Matthew Heckenlaible noted that land was owned by a private party, not the City. A discussion then took place as to what land area would be available at Paddler's Park. Darla was going to have follow up discussions with Mike Mathis, Parks & Recreation Director.

D. Sandy Bay Highlands update

Matthew Heckenlaible stated that the preliminary plat for the subdivision had been approved by City Council in December 2023.

On January 2, 2024, the WDNR responded to the application stating that it was 'incomplete' because they feel that there are alternatives in dealing with the wetlands within the Orchard Court roadway/right-of-way; and, as such, will not proceed with the application/permitting process until they are satisfied.

WDNR stated that even though the development was designed and authorized to fill some of the wetlands in the past and since it has not been filled, the WDNR believes that the wetlands can be avoided through a redesign. At this time, they will not proceed with any further permit application review and the project is on hold until this matter can be resolved or an alternative is presented and accepted by the WDNR.

Our consultant has had conversations with the Army Corp of Engineers who verbally stated that they will not be taking jurisdiction over these wetlands which provides a path that will allow the City to impact some of the wetlands in question. The consultant informed us to remain patient and let the process follow the regulatory path.

E. Street terrace policy update

Last November, Don DeBruyn and Jay Orvis were going to look at different, preferred vegetation.

Staff is torn about a less restrictive ordinance due to enforcing compliance challenges. Staff noted several areas with bushes and other obstructions in the terrace which is difficult to enforce. On the other hand, it would add diversity to terraces. We could possibly consider a limited area of 3' x 3' area around fixed objects.

Don DeBruyn stated we should consider bee lawn type vegetation which should not get over 6 inches in height, at which time it should be mowed to 4 inches.

Corinne Weis stated bee lawn would help with protecting bee species and we should look at performing test plots.

Staff noted the current ordinance allows bee lawns vegetation in front yards as long as they are maintained to less than 8 inches. Only terrace areas are restricted as turf grass. There was a consensus to keep the ordinance as is until results of the test plots are known.

Test plot details to be coordinated with Parks & Rec to determine species and who will plant. A citizen noted the unique micro culture may determine species/varieties which may be different in this area verses other nearby areas.

Currently PD reacts when complaints are received or violations are noted.

Remove street terrace updates from future meetings pending results of various test plots.

F. 2023-2024 Winter Educational Series

■ **2023**

- October 5th – “Benefits of Renewable Resources” – Brian Dellemann, Electric Director for Two Rivers Electric Utility and Brady Steigauf from Focus on Energy
- November 2nd – “Creating Fun and Resilient Parks” – Mike Mathis, Two Rivers Parks & Recreation Director

■ **2024**

- January 4th – “Invasive species – flora and fauna” – Jim Knickelbine, Director of Woodland Dunes
- February 1st – “Local Ecosystems” – Nancy Gill
- March 7th – “Storm water and storm water management for the City of Two Rivers” – Matthew Heckenlaible, Public Works Director & Scott Ahl, Assistant City Engineer
- April 4th – “Climate Change” – Mike Peters, WPPI
- May 7th - "Recycling" – Jon Reisenbuechler, Manitowoc County Operations Manager

Need to start thinking of topics for the third season of the educational series. Suggested ideas could be about sustainable development, composting, vertical plantings, and possibly a repeat of the benefits of trees.

G. Northeast Lakeshore TMDL (Update, no action)

On Tuesday, December 5, 2023, Matthew Heckenlaible was notified by WDNR that the Northeast Lakeshore TMDL had been approved by EPA and is now in full effect. What does that mean to the City of Two Rivers? We need to determine what our present stormwater suspended solid and phosphorous loadings are as compared to the TMDL report and then show what our existing best management practices (ponds, street sweeping and inlet cleaning) are removing to determine how much more reduction we have to achieve and where we can achieve the biggest bang for our dollar. That is all achieved through the modeling that is proposed to be completed utilizing the Urban Non-Point Planning Grant funds noted previously.

A question was brought up regarding the City compliance timeframe to comply with the new TMDL requirements. Ideally, WDNR and EPA would like compliance within one permit cycle. In most cases, that is not practical, therefore, the permittee will need to develop a proposed compliance schedule and be able to show annual progress in meeting these requirements.

Matthew Heckenlaible will continue to update the Advisory Board.

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, February 20, 2024, at 5:30 pm

9. ADJOURNMENT: 6:21 pm

Jay Orvis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shannon Derby. Motion carried.