

MAHTOMEDI ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

April 10, 2023

A regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was held on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Present were Commission Members: Christine Ahmann-Maples, Thomas Collins, Erin Roche, William Seuffert, Jonathan Smieja

Also present: City Administrator Scott Neilson, City Council Liaison Jeff Charlesworth, WSB Planner Eric Zweber, Accounting Clerk Melissa Bohdan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Christine Ahmann-Maples, seconded by Thomas Collins to approve agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Christine Ahmann-Maples, seconded by Jonathan Smieja to approve the March 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

New City Council Liaison Jeff Charlesworth introduced himself to the commission members.

City Administrator Scott Neilson requested that the Sustainability Plan be moved to the first thing on agenda, commission members agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Sustainability Plan – Eric Zweber from WSB Engineering lead discussion. Eric explained that he would be joining commission for meetings every other month, the next meeting he will attend is the June 12th meeting. There were 5 items Eric asked to discuss with commission members; the Draft Sustainable Vegetation Regulations, Draft Tree Preservation Regulations, Electric Vehicles Charging Overview, Parking Reduction Overview and WSB attending RITE of Spring event.

Draft Sustainable Vegetation Regulations: The group held a lengthy discussion of the Draft Sustainable Vegetation Regulations. Many commission members expressed that the regulation language reflect sustainability and the current sustainability plan. Commission members requested that the language in draft “be aesthetically pleasing” be taken out wherever listed in the draft and instead focus language on sustainability. Commission members raised many questions about how to encourage residents to have alternatives to turf grass and to seek out native plants. Commission Chair Christine Adman-Maples asked

Eric Zweber if the group could discuss this draft at another time. The group agreed to discuss this topic further at the June 12th meeting.

Draft Tree Preservation Regulations – There was discussion of how other cities staff their tree forester and if that position should be licensed. The group discussed how this draft is compared to other cities and expressed wanting to be a leader in tree preservation. Commission debated several aspects of this draft including; replacement being tree for tree or inches lost to inches replaced, what type of tree should be planted for replacement, encouragement of planting flowering trees, determining how this regulation applies to developers and homeowners, how to be sure replacement trees thrive. Eric Zweber gathered all language changes and will update draft with the Commissions changes.

Electric Vehicles Charging Overview – Administrator Scott Neilson shared with the commission that the EV charging station at City Hall has been used primarily by the same vehicles and concerns about vehicles plugged in overnight. He also shared that city staff have begun researching methods to add a fee to the charging stations. The Commission discussed their experience with other charging stations and discussed creating EV stations for individuals with disabilities. Due to time this topic was not discussed in depth, Eric Zweber asked the Commission members to review this topic further and submit comments to Administrator Scott Neilson.

WSB attending RITE of Spring Event – Eric Zweber shared that a WSB employee would be attending the RITE of Spring event to share the Sustainability Plan and hand out WSB tote bags and light bulbs from Xcel Energy.

Safe Routes to School Plan –Commission Member Erin Roche shared bullet points for the Safe Routes to School Plan that has been developed and asked for group input. She also told the commission that she will be attending the City Council meeting on April 18th to share the Safe Routes to School Plan with council members.

OLD BUSINESS

No Mow May-Follow up – Administrator Scott Neilson shared with the commission that the No Mow May resolution was approved by City Council. He shared with commission that the yard signs had been ordered and they would be available at the RITE of Spring event and at City Hall. The resolution states that residents do not need a sign in their yard to participate in this effort, the city will be temporarily suspending enforcement of city code requirements in Chapter 12.03 Section 2(i) during the month of May.

RITE of Spring 2023 – Administrator Scott Nielson shared an informative handout from Plug in America regarding electric vehicles that he thought should be shared at the event. Commission members finalized details regarding sustainability goal sheet, name tags for event, table set up and logistics for the day of event.

Administrator Neilson shared with commission members that the city was awarded a \$10,000 recycling grant from Washington County. He also shared new information about a program with Second Chance Recycling that will make curb side mattress recycling available to residents. The Administrator reminded commission members of their email security training that needs to be completed for our IT department.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. RITE of Spring – Follow up
2. Wetland Water Quality – Tom Collins

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Thomas Collins, seconded by William Seuffert to Adjourn meeting, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

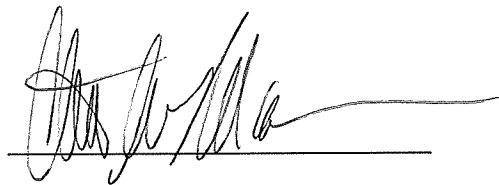
Attested:

Approved



Melissa Bohdan

Accounting Clerk



Christine Ahmann-Maples

Commission Chair