

1. 1. Revised Agenda -- Cancelled -- No Quorum

Documents:

[2021-08-23 ENV AGENDA -- CANCELLED -- NO QUORUM.PDF](#)

2. 2. 7-26-2021 ENV Meeting Minutes

Documents:

[2. 2021-07-26 ENV MEETING MINUTES.PDF](#)

3. 3A. Refine Two Track Approach To Trees

Documents:

[3A. MEMO - REFINE TWO-TRACK APPROACH TO TREES.PDF](#)

A. 3B. MSA Annual Event

Documents:

[3B. MEMO - MS4 ANNUAL EVENT.PDF](#)

4. 4A. Potential Environmental Commission Projects To Consider

Documents:

[4A. MEMO - POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION PROJECTS TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT YEAR.PDF](#)



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

**MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021**

**6:00 PM**

The Environmental Commission meeting will be held in the Public Meeting Room on the first floor of City Hall, 208 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Faribault, MN.

1. Call to Order
2. Approve July 26, 2021 Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
  - A. Refine Two-Track Approach to Tree Preservation, Replacement, and Regeneration
  - B. Discuss Potential Opportunities to Enhance the Annual MS4 Educational Event
4. Routine Business
  - A. Announcements and Updates
    - Potential Environmental Commission Projects to consider for Next Year – Commissioner Diessner Email Message
    - Update regarding Youth on Boards
    - Potential Meeting with City Council in October
  - B. Agenda Items for September 27, 2021 Meeting
5. Adjourn

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Please contact the Department of Community and Economic Development at 507-334-0100 if you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting.



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021

6:00 PM

### 1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Steinkamp called the meeting to order at 6:01.

Chair Steinkamp asked for Roll Call: Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold, Commissioner Wasilowski and Chair Steinkamp.

Absent: Commissioner Garcia at Roll Call

### 2. Approve June 28, 2021 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nesvold and seconded by Commissioner Huston to approve the June 28, 2021 meeting minutes as written.

Motion carried on a 6/0 vote.

Commissioner Garcia arrive at approximately 6:10 p.m.

### 3. Items for Discussion

A. Overview of the City of Faribault's Efforts to Preserve and Enhance Trees in the City – Paul Peanasky, Parks and Recreation Director

The Director, Paul Peanasky, went through Tree City USA which is where it all started. They started with a Tree Board; have an ordinance; and spent \$2 per capita (need to keep track of population). He explained how he can keep track of that. They also require an Arbor Day Celebration. They work with GROWS to get those trees planted. Did some other projects, river city cleanup and rain gardens. Peanasky also explained the Growth Award as well. Examples of obtaining additional points would be like updating the tree ordinance; doing a canopy assessment.

Commissioner Garcia arrive at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Wanberg talked about how it is hard with the limited amount of time and staff to work through the Growth Award. Peanasky discussed the levels. Wanberg stated that 13 of the 111 cities in Minnesota participate in these programs. Chair Steinkamp asked about the budget. Peanasky stated that they budget about \$23,000 for projects involved with trees.

B. Overview of Past, Present, and Future Trees in Faribault – David Wanberg, City Planner

Peanasky talked about the Emerald Ash Bore that was found here last summer in the center of town. He showed maps. Central Park removed 13 trees that were removed in April. They are trying to plant additional trees to replace those. It is continuing to spread. They have done a tree inventory on the park system. They 376 Ash trees. 163 in just N Alexander. Started putting new trees in following inventory. 120 trees in S. Alex. The aquatic center has lost ash trees. 66% of all the trees in the park system are ash trees. There is a way to do injections but the decision was to continue to remove the ash trees and replace with new young trees. Houston asked about mulching and if the disease is viable after mulching. Peanasky said mulching and burning is the way to get rid of it. They have created a brochure that is ready to go to print to help identify in their own yards. Another is Dutch elm disease. They tried to make it more generic to see if they have trees that are starting to suffer. There is to be a contact person. Staff has been able to put them on a list. Street trees in the public ROW have not been inventoried. Waslowski asked about the sexes of the trees and if they've been counted. Peanasky stated that they have not. 90% are male and they consider it to be a cleaner looking and less waste. Female have more waste. Male trees have high pollen count. Wondered if they would consider planning half to keep pollen down. Peanasky said that they tend to put in cleaner trees. Wanberg said that some cities ban female trees that clog up sewer systems, etc. Steinkamp asked about the financial burden to get trees taken down. If in park system, city will take down but otherwise it's homeowner's responsibility. There was some funding in the past for Dutch elm disease and hopefully they will do it again. They have applied for a grant \$5,000. DNR has another one they are applying for. They plan on replanting. They have not done a lot with invasive species – not enough manpower. They use special projects through churches, etc. Wanberg talked about a buckthorn wrench. He also discussed the funding of the ENV which is about \$1,500. Houston did not recommend the buckthorn wrench. Peanasky said they cut and then treat them. He did not recommend goat dispatch either.

Types of planting 3 and 4" trees. Boulevard trees are around \$10,000 a year and then Arbor Day from GROWS. People also donate trees, memorial trees. Dick's donated a bunch of trees. Budget is about \$23,000.

Wanberg said that we have a tree board and a park board; are there opportunities for the ENV commission can work with the boards and staff. Peanasky stated they are pretty open and willing to work with them. Going through the Growth award things and getting the education out there. The park system is inventories manually. Wanberg reminded that we do have GPS and if we get volunteers together to go out with the GPS to mark the trees. That would be an opportunity too. The value would be to see if they are in the flood plain. Location was not identified in the inventory. Houston mentioned replacement time. Talked about the diversity. Peanasky said yes, since Emerald Ash Bore came out they have put in a diverse amount of trees. Steinkamp stated that by locating the boulevard trees gets the home owners involved. He mentioned to also

identify the condition of the tree to know about how long it will last. Houston asked about a fire break; say if you identify and take down all the ash trees; would that stop the spread? Peanasky said that probably not. Garcia asked about education and asked about having the brochure in another language. Nesvold asked about distributing information at GROWS next year.

Wanberg went through some maps on what he have. Houston asked about the county property downtown and would like to see some of that property go green.

#### **4. Routine Business**

A. Announcements and Updates: Youth on Boards

B. Agenda items for August 23, 2021 meeting.

#### **5. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Commissioner Huston and seconded by Commissioner Garcia to adjourn at 7:21 pm

Motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 26, 2021

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary



## Environmental Commission Memorandum

**TO:** Environmental Commission

**THROUGH:** Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director

**FROM:** David Wanberg, City Planner

**MEETING DATE:** August 23, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Refine Two-Track Approach to Tree Preservation, Replacement, and Regeneration

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### **Background:**

At its last meeting, the Environmental Commission reviewed the City's ordinances, programs, and plans related to trees (refer to the July 26 Environmental Commission packet for additional information). The Commission agreed to take a two-track approach to tree preservation, replacement, and enhancement. One track would address urgent issues and opportunities related to trees (for example, promoting awareness and understanding of emerald ash borer (EAB) disease). The other track would address "big picture" issues and opportunities related to trees. This second track would involve the preparation of a "Tree Road Map."

The Environmental Commission should now develop a simple and implementable work plan for this two-track approach. Commissioner Garcia is working on translating into Spanish the EAB brochure that the Parks Department prepared. What other actions should the Environmental Commission take to promote awareness and understanding of EAB?

Regarding the "Tree Road Map," are there some actions the Environmental Commission should start planning now? For example, should the Environmental Commission help organize a tree inventory in the Central Business District?

**Recommendation:**

Consider key issues and opportunities to promote tree preservation, replacement, and enhancement in the city within the context of the two-track approach discussed above. Be prepared to discuss and develop a simple and implementable work plan.



## Environmental Commission Memorandum

**TO:** Environmental Commission

**THROUGH:** Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director

**FROM:** David Wanberg, City Planner

**MEETING DATE:** August 23, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Discuss Potential Opportunities to Enhance the Annual MS4 Educational Event

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### **Background:**

As an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) community, Faribault must conduct at least one educational event related to stormwater runoff. The City had an educational booth at the Rice County Fair earlier this year. However, the City Engineer would also like to have an "event" at the September 27 meeting of the Environmental Commission. This event could be simple (similar to last year). However, the Environmental Commission should discuss potential opportunities to enhance community awareness and understanding of stormwater runoff. These opportunities may occur later this year or next year.

### **Recommendation:**

Identify any specific stormwater-related items you would like the City Engineer to address with the Environmental Commission at its September 27 meeting. Discuss other opportunities to promote awareness and understanding of stormwater issues.





## Environmental Commission Memorandum

**TO:** Environmental Commission

**THROUGH:** Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director

**FROM:** David Wanberg, City Planner

**MEETING DATE:** August 23, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Potential Environmental Commission Projects to consider for Next Year

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### Background:

Commissioner Diessner would like the Environmental Commission to consider some potential projects for next year. The intention is not to develop an annual work plan at this meeting. However, Commissioner Diessner would like to gauge the interest of the Commission regarding the following:

*Do we have an interest to consult on starting a program for **composting of food organics** possibly similar to the program in Northfield? <https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/336/Organics-RecyclingComposting>*

*Any interest in **meeting with the Northfield Environment Quality Commission** to learn about their efforts in general? **Meetings Third Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m.** City Hall, 2nd Floor Training Room, 801 Washington St., Northfield, MN 55057*

*Here are projects they are working on this year/next year.*

### **Projects working on next year**

- *Updating city's Dark Sky policy to address blue-rich light and sending recommendations to the Planning Commission*
- *Developing a zero-waste plan, beginning with a plan for **single-use plastics***

- Collaborating with Planning Commission and city staff on creating a single **"approved tree list"**

We can learn also more about the **Minneapolis organics program** from these links posted on the Northfield website.

*At-home organics recycling/composting*  
[City of Minneapolis How To Start Collecting Organics](#)

[Dakota County's Composting at Home](#)

[Hennepin County Organics recycling - setting up organics recycling at home and backyard composting](#)

### **Resources**

[Save the food](#)

[Prevent food waste](#)

[Video: Why does half of America's food go to waste, PBS News Hour](#)

[Food: Too Good To Waste, West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum](#)

[Love Food, Hate Waste](#)

[I Value Food, Sustainable America](#)

### **Recommendation:**

Identify the Commission's interest level in the above items.