

1. 1. Environmental Commission Agenda

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2. 2. 2020-08-24 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

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## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

*Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 provides that a meeting of a public body may be conducted via telephone or other electronic means if meeting in a public location is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or declared emergency. Due to the declared health pandemic, this meeting of the Environmental Commission will be held through electronic means, rather than in-person.*

*You may participate in this meeting by joining the following videoconference or by calling the following telephone number at the scheduled date and time of the meeting:*

1. Via Videoconference: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89881145035>  
*(Note: Your computer should have a camera and a microphone. However, if you do not have a microphone and camera, you can still view the meeting on your computer and participate in the conversation via a telephone.)*
2. Via Telephone: **1-312-626-6799**, meeting ID: [898 8114 5035](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89881145035) *(Note: You may need to enter # twice.)*

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
2. Approve August 24, 2020 Minutes
3. Reports / Presentations
  - A. Stormwater Management Presentation – Mark DuChene, City Engineer and Kevin Strauss, Cannon River Watershed Partnership
  - B. GreenStep Cities Presentation – Chris Meyer, SE CERT Coordinator
4. Routine Business
  - A. Announcements and Updates
    - Temporary Pause on Natural Landscaping Ordinance
    - Environmental Commission Meetings – Online or In-Person?
  - B. Agenda Items for October 26 Meeting
    - Review Environmental Commission Goals and Actions - Refine Goals and Next Steps of the Environmental Commission

- Other

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

*Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 provides that a meeting of a public body may be conducted via telephone or other electronic means if meeting in a public location is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or declared emergency. Due to the declared health pandemic, this meeting of the Environmental Commission will be held through electronic means, rather than in-person.*

**MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

### 1. Call to Order / Roll Call.

Chair, Roger Steinkamp called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Chuck Ackman, Tom Boevers, Cynthia Diessner, Roger Steinkamp.

Not present: Dan Behrens and Dick Huston (Huston attempted to log on to the Zoom; however, was unable to connect)

Emily Nesvold joined at 6:09 p.m.

### 2. Approve July 27, 2020 Minutes.

Chair Steinkamp asked if anyone had any additions or corrections; no one spoke and then the Chair approved the minutes by a unanimous consent foregoing the roll call.

### 3. Reports / Presentations

#### A. Potential Amendments to Chapter 31 Tall Grass and Weed Regulation (*Continued from Last Meeting*)

Wanberg presented the five basic questions that he would like input on. After much discussion, the commission went over the draft ordinance stating that they would not recommend the requirement of getting a permit which would require a fee of \$150 and \$25 annually until the fifth year which would require them to reapply. After further discussion the board had a hard time with the proposed draft language regarding what a weed is and felt that they should just stick with making the person eradicate the noxious weeds as proposed on the state's website and leave it up to the individual to decide what a weed is; one man's weed might be another man's flower. Boevers asked if the individual was given a time to correct what was cited as "rank growth". Wanberg said that there is a court date pending but she did reach out to him to see if she could apply for a natural

landscape permit and asked if he could recommend any other corrective action she could take to avoid the penalty. Wanberg suggested that she mow 18" from the right of way and keep the plants to no more than a maximum height of 8" and mow what was in the boulevard. There was some discussion of the slope and being unable to mow. Wanberg stated there was a 2 to 1 slope reference in the ordinance. Nesvold asked if the ordinance was common knowledge; Wanberg stated that he didn't think it was. Chair Steinkamp wanted to keep it simple for the police to continue to enforce any complained of actions. Nesvold offered that Austin, Minnesota requires a permit but has no fee. The purpose of the permit was to have the request on record and to get a plan and maintenance schedule. Commissioner Ackman stated that he felt comfortable with the language proposed by staff and was not in favor of taking out the language regarding the definition of a weed. Ackman then made a suggestion of a potential work session with the City Council to see what their take would be on this. Boevers asked about bushes, shrubs and trees and Wanberg stated that scrubs has a 3' setback and trees should have a 7' setback but there are issues with this ordinance since the City will often plant trees right in the boulevard. After much more discussion Commissioner Boevers brought a motion to remove the language proposed in 31-2 regarding what a weed is. There was much more discussion and no one seconded Boevers motion and also talked about the absence of the other two members of the board. Without a second, Boevers then withdrew his motion. Commissioner Diessner then brought a motion to postpone the action indefinitely to direct staff to confer with the City Administrator on the subject matter and come back to the commission with two examples how best to proceed. This motion was seconded by Nesvold. Chair Steinkamp then approved the motion by unanimous consent without roll call.

B. Tools to Promote Pollinators and Natural Landscapes (*Continued from Last Meeting – Verbal Update – No Memo*)

Wanberg gave the update that he spoke with the City Engineer about putting in a pollinator/natural landscape garden at the library in the new parking lot and he declined as the plan is already set and there already is an existing garden at the library.

3. Routine Business

Agenda Items for September 28 Meeting: Conduct public meeting related to Stormwater Pollution Prevention (*Mark DuChene, City Engineer, will plan and facilitate this meeting*) Wanberg reported that this meeting has been properly noticed.

Wanberg also reported that Chris Meyer of CERTs will present information about CERTs and the Minnesota GreenSteps Cities program.

4. **Adjournment (majority vote by roll call)**

A motion was made by Ackman and seconded by Nesvold to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Chair Steinkamp then approved the motion by unanimous consent. Without roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 24, 2020

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