



Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

April 17, 2012–4 p.m.

McCall Library

218 East Park Street, McCall, ID 83638



COMMITTEE MEETING – Began at 4 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

EAC members Claire Remsberg, Cindy Miller, Fred Coriell and Zachary Allen were present. Also present was guest Sue Patterson, Alpha Nursery. Delta James, City Planner, was also present.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of February 21, 2012, were unanimously approved.

3. PRESENTATION: FERTILIZER OPTIONS – ALPHA NURSERY

Sue Patterson of Alpha Nursery presented information regarding organic fertilizer options. Ms. Patterson provided information about how the use of chemical fertilizers began, the growth in use of chemical fertilizers and how, over time, chemical fertilizers are creating nitrate-dense “dead zones” in oceans, creating water quality issues in communities, and depleting minerals in soils thereby creating a dependency on chemical fertilization and the need to use more and more. As an alternative to chemical fertilizers, Alpha Nursery currently offers an organic fertilizer called Alpha Three Complex which is a blend of three ingredients: Mycorrhizae, a beneficial fungus that becomes an extension of plants' roots systems; Biosol, an organic fertilizer; and Menafee Humate, a humate that breaks down organics in soil. The organic fertilizer mix costs more at first, but needs fewer applications than chemical fertilizers, creates more robust growth in plants, is safe for children and pets, and does not negatively affect the environment. EAC members expressed appreciation for the informative presentation and asked follow up questions about the individual ingredients of the organic fertilizer. City staff will forward the information to the Golf Course and Parks and Recreation Departments.

4. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY DISCUSSION

EAC members reviewed the second draft of a one-page memo to Council that is intended to introduce the concept and benefits of an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) Policy. EAC members approved issuing the memo to Council with a few minor edits. Zack is continuing to investigate the City's copy paper use as an EPP case study. Fred offered to assist in researching cleaning products. City staff will forward the EPP memo to the City Manager for distribution to City Council, provide City cleaning product use information to Fred, and bring EPP decision points to the next meeting for discussion.

5. RECYCLING EDUCATION PROJECTS DISCUSSION

EAC members discussed that improving signage at the County recycling center is a top priority recycling education project. Fred has provided the recycling information that Lakeshore Disposal uses. Claire and Fred will visit the site to determine sign location and size options. Fred agreed to begin mocking up a possible sign.

6. OTHER


City staff provided information about the Spring Cleaning Event scheduled for June 8 and 9, 2012, which is being coordinated by the McCall Police Department. Large dumpsters for free disposal of household garbage and yard debris will be provided at the SW corner of Ridley's parking lot. City staff asked if EAC members wanted to participate in the event by organizing groups to clean up certain streets or parks, or by identifying an area to clean themselves. EAC members expressed concern about their availability to coordinate other groups and attend that day, but asked to be reminded closer to the event dates. EAC members suggested that the Spring Cleaning Event flier be revised to include an encouragement for people to recycle first, and then dispose. City Staff will forward the suggestion with draft text and recycling logo to the McCall Policy staff coordinating the clean up event.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Date: May 16, 2012

Attest:



Claire Remsberg
EAC Chair



Delta James
City Planner