

MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

APRIL 7, 2016

Chairperson, Bev Aas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Harry Thielen, Mike Jensen, Chuck Koshiol, Chad Woelfel, Duane Olmscheid, and Neil Herzberg. Also present were advisory members Ron Mergen, Public Works Director and Don Williamson, West Central Sanitation. Absent were Donovan Mayer and Brandon Michaelis.

There were no minutes available for approval.

CURBSIDE SCAVENGING

The event was discussed, noting the flyer will be distributed and that is all the City does for the event. It was also noted people were asking about it again this year.

SPRING CLEAN UP & HHW COLLECTION

Everything is on schedule for the cleanup. Stearns County is asking for 4 volunteers to help with the hazardous waste collection. Thielen, Aas, Herzberg, and Jensen stated they will be there. Williamson and Olmscheid reported they will have enough help for their respected areas. At this point the collection and cleanup will be in the north parking lot with the same set up as last year. The flyers for both the HHW and Spring Cleanup were reviewed and extra copies distributed.

PERMITTED OPEN BURNING

Members reviewed the exiting ordinance noting that the burning of leaves was eliminated in 2004. Koshiol feels strongly that the City needs to take it to the next level and eliminate all fires within the City limits. The reasoning is the smoke pollution from the fire pits is detrimental to people's health, especially people with asthma. Under the City's current ordinance anyone in the City limits can burn within 30 feet of a structure and if someone is burning 30 feet from a neighbors open window it is a nuisance. After a lengthy discussion, members suggested the City contact other communities and see what they do and Koshiol would conduct a survey in the Press and bring it back to the fall meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.