

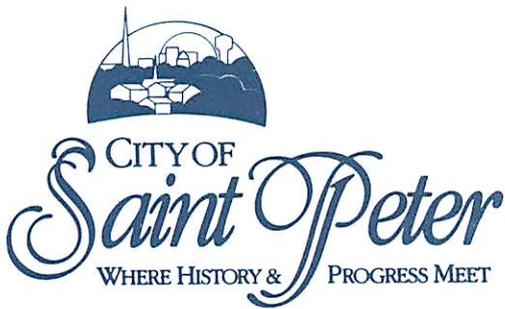
**CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA  
AGENDA AND NOTICE OF MEETING**

Regular Workshop Session of Monday, March 4, 2013  
Library Meeting Room – 5:30 p.m.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **DISCUSSION**
  - A. Rain Barrel Program
  - B. Neighborhood Road Meeting Updates
  - C. Others
- III. **ADJOURNMENT**

Office of the City Administrator  
Todd Prafke

TP/bal



## Memorandum

**TO:** Todd Prafke  
City Administrator

**DATE:** February 17, 2013

**FROM:** Lewis Giesking  
Director of Public Works

**RE:** 2013 Rain Barrel Program

### **ACTION/RECOMMENDATION**

None needed. For your information and discussion only.

### **BACKGROUND**

With the success of the 2012 Rain Barrel Program and at the direction of the City Council, City staff has been working with local businesses to continue the program in 2013. This type of program is becoming more frequent in communities such as ours as the City continues to reach out and offer more choices and benefits to help each homeowner minimize their monthly cost and still keep their property looking nice.

The program, which staff has assembled, includes a subsidy in the cost to the homeowners plus a variety in the selection, with two types of barrels available. The selected rain barrels will be obtainable at four businesses including Arrow Ace Hardware, Mary's Flowers, Saint Peter Greenhouse and Floral, and Traverse des Sioux Garden Center. It has been expressed by the businesses that the program was well run and they liked the fact that the City continues to work with them on promoting items that are bought and sold locally. Each of the businesses expressed that barrels chosen were good products and they hope to continue the existing program. They voiced some concern about lowering the quality of the barrels used and customer satisfaction if lesser limits were sold.

The rain barrels are the same barrels that were used last year and can be obtained for either \$80 or \$90 depending on the unit selected. If the customer would like to pick out a different barrel, sold from one of the businesses listed above, they are able to do so as long as the barrel price is at least \$80. Last year this did happen a couple of times giving the homeowner their choice in what the rain barrel looked like, was constructed of, and what they were willing to spend.

This year staff is also recommending that the "Barrel Kit" be an option for customers as some owners may have their own rain barrel. The "kit" allows the owner to retro fit the barrel and makes it useable as a rain barrel. Kits can be purchased for \$32 and customers are eligible for a \$10.00 rebate on this item. We do have some concerns about the proliferation of the "big blue" barrels in neighborhoods and hope that folks who are interested and go to this effort will also understand that our visual environment is a consideration as well.

Just like last year, the customer will initially pay full price for the rain barrel/rain kit and will fill out a rebate form at the time of purchase. City staff will pick up the rebate forms at the business and deliver the forms to the Finance Department for reimbursement as a \$25 or \$10 credit on their utility bill.

It is anticipated that approximately 70 rain barrel units and 20 kits will be sold during the duration of the program which would run from April 15th to June 15th and that the Stormwater Utility will spend about \$2,000 for this program. Last year 80 rain barrels were purchased through this program at an expense of \$2,000 to the utility.

This kind of program is good for the community in a number of different ways. First, it provides an opportunity, at a reduced cost for homeowners, to do something that can have a positive impact on the environment (not to mention the benefit to their plants and gardens). Use of rain barrels can help save irrigation costs and helps in a small way to recharge our groundwater. In addition, it provides a wonderful, positive contact opportunity for us that show our commitment to environment. While we show the environmental commitment in many ways, like enhanced wastewater treatment, experimenting with electric gators, composting, and others, this is a day-in day-out example that our customers have direct opportunity to see and use. And our private/public partnership with local businesses is positive in keeping dollars and opportunities at home.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns on this agenda item.

LGG/vt



Fiskars Rain Barrel  
48 Gallon  
\$80.00 before rebate

**2013  
Rain Barrel  
Rebate!  
April 15th  
through  
June 15th**

\$80.00 Rain Barrel  
purchase qualifies for a  
rebate of \$25.00



Earth Minded Rain Barrel  
48 Gallon  
\$90.00 before rebate

**Conversion Kits Now Available!**

DIY Rain Barrel Diverter and Parts Kit  
\$32.00 before rebate

Qualifies for a rebate of \$10.00

Kit includes all the parts needed to create a  
rain barrel.

Barrel is **NOT** included!

**Available for Purchase At**

Arrow Ace Hardware

Mary's Flowers

St. Peter Greenhouse & Floral

Traverse de Sioux Garden Center

**Rain Barrel Benefits**

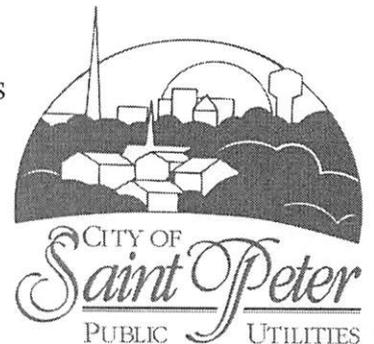
Rainwater is great for gardens, houseplants, auto cleaning, window washing, and many other household chores; they provide a source of water during droughts; they save you money by lowering your water bill and they reduce stress on the municipal storm drain and sewer systems.

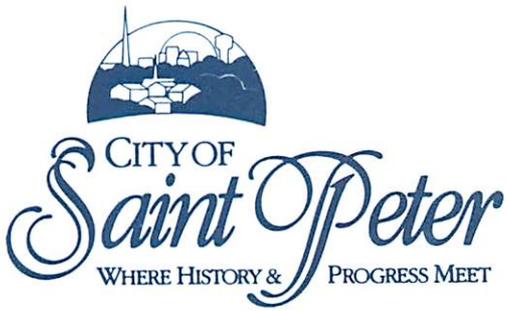
Rebate forms will be filled out at time of purchase. Utility personnel will pick up rebates and submit to the City Finance for reimbursement on your utility bill. Limit two per household. Rebate available to the first 100 qualified rain barrel purchases.

If your neighborhood has an association, please check current bylaws to determine eligibility.

Rebates are received in the form of a utility rebate credit.

Program is sponsored by the City of Saint Peter Stormwater Utility





## Memorandum

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Strand  
Members of the City Council

**DATE:** 2/28/13

**FROM:** Todd Prafke  
City Administrator

**RE:** Neighborhood Meetings Update

### **ACTION/RECOMMENDATION**

None needed. For your information only.

### **BACKGROUND**

Community Development Director Wille and Public Works Director Giesking will be in attendance at the workshop Monday evening to provide an update road work along Old Minnesota Avenue in the area between Union Street and Highway 22.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns on this agenda item.

TP/bal