

Agenda

Environmental Concerns Committee

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, April 17, 2024

4:30 PM

City Commission Chambers – 241 West South Street

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1. Assurance of meeting broadcast.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

(Action: Motion to approve the agenda)

1. Adopt the agenda for the April 17, 2024 meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes from the Environmental Concerns Committee meeting on March 20, 2024 **(Action: Motion to approve)**

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. No communications from City staff to the board.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Check phone lines for public comments.
2. Comments from public attendees.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Hailey Iglewski from Michigan Consulting & Environmental will discuss a composting program currently underway in Canton Township, MI.
2. Chris Broadbent, Solid Waste Coordinator for the City of Kalamazoo will discuss solid waste handling in the City.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Kalamazoo River Litter Issue
2. Waste Update
3. Community Sustainability Plan
 - a. Natural World Symposium on April 27th, 2024 from 9a-2p at the Girl Scouts Regional Training Facility at 601 W. Maple Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.
 - b. Follow up to the grant question on EV charging stations for City of Kalamazoo use.
 - c. No Mow May
4. Modeshift Updates

H. REPORTS

1. NFP Review Board - Bobby
Air and Water Quality - Bobby
Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection - Tressa
Planning Commission - Rachel
Tree Committee - Thomas
Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council - Sharon
Parks & Rec Advisory Board - Robb
Kalamazoo River Watershed Council - David
Wellhead Protection Program Committee-Quarterly w/Jean Talanda (quarterly - tentative May)
Odor Task Force - David B.(quarterly)

I. ADJOURNMENT

1. Last check of phone lines for public comments.
2. Final comments from committee members
3. Adjourn



Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Hailey Iglewski from Michigan Consulting & Environmental will discuss a composting program currently underway in Canton Township, MI.

SUMMARY:

Hailey Iglewski from Michigan Consulting & Environmental will discuss a composting program currently underway in Canton Township, MI.

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:



Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Chris Broadbent, Solid Waste Coordinator, for the City of Kalamazoo will discuss solid waste handling in the City.

SUMMARY:

Chris Broadbent, Solid Waste Coordinator for the City of Kalamazoo will discuss solid waste handling in the City.

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:



Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Kalamazoo River Litter Issue

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:

PRESS RELEASE

March 26, 2024

ROTARIANS TO CLEAN UP KALAMAZOO RIVER & RIVER TRAIL

It's A Community-wide Event.

In celebration of Earth Day, Rotary Club of Kalamazoo will be undertaking the area's largest volunteer initiative of its type. Rotary is seeking the help of 200 to 400 volunteers to clear the Kalamazoo River and River Trail between Comstock and Parchment of litter, trash, and other debris.

Sandy Bleisener, former club president and president of OCBA Landscape Architects shares, "The Kalamazoo River is very important to us for many reasons. How we care for our waterways is a reflection of our community and how we value our environment. Additionally, this river has our city's namesake, it deserves our best care."

Rotary is taking a community-wide approach, seeking the support of business and industry, schools and churches, civic and social clubs, families, and individuals. To assist in their effort they're partnering with Michigan Waterways Stewards who have led similar campaigns in our capital city and East Lansing.

Michael Stout, president and founder of Michigan Waterways Stewards says, "I have been very impressed by the enthusiastic response by the greater Kalamazoo area, and in particular with local and county government and emergency services." Stout adds, "With the strong support already pledged I am certain we will all be proud of the eventual outcome."

For additional details about the event and how you can help, visit: www.MiWaterwaysStewards.org.

KALAMAZOO RIVER AND RIVER TRAIL CLEANUP

Event Headquarters: Mayor's Riverfront Park

Day: Saturday, April 20, 2024

Time: 11:00AM - 3:00PM

Food, drink, equipment, and hospitality to be provided.

For additional information contact:

Michael Stout

President and Founder, Michigan Waterways Stewards mstout@MiWaterwaysStewards.org | (952) 239-3943



Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Waste Update

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:



Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Sustainability Plan

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:



Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Natural World Symposium on April 27th, 2024 from 9a-2p at the Girl Scouts Regional Training Facility at 601 W. Maple Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:

THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO HOSTS:

NATURAL WORLD SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, April 27th. 9am-2pm

**GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF MICHIGAN KALAMAZOO
REGIONAL PROGRAM AND TRAINING CENTER**

601 W. Maple Street. Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Light Snacks and Refreshments Provided

FEATURING

No Mow May and Native Lawns:

Justin Gish, City of Kalamazoo

What We Talk About When We Talk About Invasive Species:

Sara Huetteman, Barry, Calhoun, Kalamazoo Cooperative Invasive Species
Management Areas

Everything You Wanted to Know About Urban Deer but Were Afraid to Ask:

Don Poppe, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Evolution of a Naturalist: From Lawn Lover to Native Gardener:

Donna Perry Keller, Citizen Naturalist



And More....





Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Follow up to the grant question on EV charging stations for City of Kalamazoo use.

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:



Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: No Mow May

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:



NO MOW MAY



WHAT IS IT?

No Mow May is an initiative for the month of May to let lawns grow undisturbed giving pollinators food and habitat in the early part of the growing season.

In early Spring, floral resources may be hard to find, especially in urban and suburban landscapes. By allowing lawns to grow longer, and letting flowers bloom, nectar and pollen become more available to help pollinators thrive.

Not mowing for a few weeks is a simple step in helping the local ecosystem, though it is only part of the solution. It acts as a starting point for moving toward increasing native habitats throughout the urban landscape.

THE CITY'S SUPPORT

When participating in No Mow May you will be **exempt from the Tall Grass/Weed Nuisance Violation Notice for the month of May only**, as long as the following areas are kept mowed:

- The entire curb lawn between the street and sidewalk. If no curb lawn, at least 5 feet back of road edge
- At least one mower width on the private property (house or lot) side of the public sidewalk
- At least one mower width on any walkway approach to front porch
- At least 3 feet immediately at neighboring property lines

As a way to help educate others on the program, you may pick-up a **No Mow May lawn sign and H-stake** to place in your lawn for the duration of the month of May, though it is *not required*. The signs are free of charge & can be saved for use in future years!

LAWN SIGN PICK-UP

50 lawn signs will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis at the Natural World Symposium

When: Saturday, April 27th 9am-2pm

Where: Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Kalamazoo Regional Program and Training Center (601 W. Maple Street. Kalamazoo, MI 49008)

Any remaining signs will be available for pickup after 4/27 at 245 N Rose St. Suite 100. Kalamazoo, MI 49007 during normal business hours. Call (269)-337-8000 to check sign availability before arrival



**Natural World
Symposium
Information**





Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Modeshift Updates

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION:



Environmental Concerns Committee Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Justin Gish, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: April 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Monthly reports

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION: