

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

February 17, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Sharon Dever; David Benac, Vice-Chair; Bobby Glasser, Stephen Romenelli, Tressa Greshak, Robb Liekis

ABSENT: Thomas Dewhirst, Rachel Jondle

STAFF: Carrie Soule (recording secretary)
Justin Gish
Alexa Hempel

OTHERS:

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

ASSURANCE OF LIVE STREAMING (Facebook/You Tube)

Recording/Streaming of the meeting was not confirmed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Dever asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the February 15th, 2024, meeting.

Committee Member made a motion to approve the Agenda and was supported. With a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for January 14th, 2024

Minutes were not approved at this time to do lack of staff capacity. Justin Gish informed the ECC that a staff person was assigned to take minutes and they would join the ECC at the March meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Individual/Announcements: David Benac referred to a statement from folks

COMMENTS BY OTHERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Dever asked if there were any comments on the phones. There were no callers.

Chair Dever opened discussion for comments by others.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Waste Update- Chris Broadbent provided information on solid waste numbers. Sharon Dever made a motion to place a presentation on municipal composting on the April agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Kalamazoo River – Litter

David Benac expressed interest with Doug Hoffman to create a local group to tackle the waste issue in the river. This group would bring together folks from the City of Kalamazoo, local non-profits, and environmental groups. There was also talk of a phone application that could assist in identifying where trash in along the river.

Setting End Date for applicants for open board seats-

Sharon Dever is not generally supportive of a hard end date due to historically low applicants. David Benac said that a hard deadline feels restrictive. David Benac suggested that to convey urgency we stress that the seats are first come first serve. Hope is to be get full board seated by Earth Day.

NEW BUSINESS

Jean Talanda from City of Kalamazoo Public Services presented on water updates. Two forest management plans were recently completed. This is to prepare for a limited tree harvest on the property to create an understory and improve forest health. This could generate some money to manage invasive species in the City of Kalamazoo.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

- ***Natural Features Protection (NFP) Review Board***– Mr. Glasser did not attend the last meeting.
- ***Air and Water Quality*** – Mr. Glasser stated that there was no news on this front.
- ***Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection*** – No updates.
- ***City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission*** – Sharon read an update provided by Rachel. Two zoning requests made by the City to update two missed parcels into the zoning code. Asked that the ECC consider recommendations on lighting ordinances.
- ***Tree Committee*** – No report
- ***Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council*** –Water purification project ongoing.

- ***Parks & Recreation Advisory Board*** – Nothing to report.
- ***Kalamazoo River Watershed Council*** – No updates beyond the previously mentioned formation of a multi stakeholder river clean up task force.
- ***Odor Task Force – Quarterly*** – No notifications of any meetings.
- ***Community Sustainability Plan*** – Save the dates for a river clean up on 4/20/24. 4/27/24 there is a natural world symposium focusing on urban deer, native and invasive species, and birds. This will be the bird migration kick off. Reusable container program survey is successful and live.

CHECK PHONE LINES AND STREAMING FOR COMMENTS:

No comments or phone calls.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.