

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

March 20th, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Sharon Dever; Thomas DeWhirst, Rachel Jondle, Stephen Romenelli, Tressa Greshak

ABSENT: David Benac, Vice-Chair; Robb Liekis, Bobby Glasser

STAFF: Carrie Soule (recording secretary), Justin Gish

OTHERS: Applicants: David DeBack and Damaris Potter, Jean Hess, ***Wellhead Protection Program Committee***, Dan Bair, ***ModeShift***

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 confirmed, with community members joining via a link posted on the City's Facebook page.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (03/20/2024)

Chair Dever asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the March 20th, 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 01/17/2024 and 02/17/2024

Chair Dever asked the Committee Members if there were any changes to the January 17th, 2024 and February 17, 2024 meeting minutes. There were no changes to the meeting minutes.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Individual/Announcements:

News/Educational Items:

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.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS (AS NEEDED)

New Applicants:

Chair Dever stated they have two vacancies. 2 Applicants: David Deback and Damaris Potter, were at the meeting to tell a little about themselves. David: Long time Community member and would like to participate/help with fresh river, species and general concerns with the Kalamazoo River, knows a lot of businesses and people within Kalamazoo and has a legal background. Damaris: Junior @ WMU major is in Political Science and studying Community Planning with Environmental Sustainability. Main Focuses are waste-worked at Waste Management as Environmental Steward with clean/renewable energy. Is currently the Intern to Senator Jeff Irwin.

Thomas DeWhirst recommended to approve both candidates and Stephen Romenelli seconded the motion and vote was unanimously approved. Sent to City Clerk for April 1st vote.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Jean Talanda– Electrical car unveiling at the Creamery that are used for car shares available and can rent for \$5 an hour or \$50 a day with maintenance and insurance being covered.

Kalamazoo River – Litter (Absent) Clean up with lots of other organizations with City Partnership on Saturday, April 20th, 11am to 3pm at Mayor River Front Park.

Waste Update - Bring recyclable EPS/Electronic and document shredding recycling, Saturday, April 20th, 11am to 3pm at Mayor River Front Park.

Community Sustainability Plan – New Charging stations for City use, 1 located at Stockbridge, 1 at Public Safety Harrison location and 2 at the Police Station on Crosstown. The used vehicles are Chevy Silverado Pick-up trucks that were direct replacements with Public Services Grant money. My Healthy Climate Fellowship position was filled by Alexa that started Monday, March 18th, 2024

Events: Bicycle Show 2024, May 11th from 10am to 2pm at Bronson Park

UPCOMING BUSINESS

- Planned Compost Visitor April 17th ECC Meeting & City of Kalamazoo Waste Coordinator

NEW BUSINESS

- ModeShift – Dan Bair, showed a slide show about the Environmental problems with cars are Climate Change (Greenhouse Gas Emissions), Pollution (Air, Noise, Water), Land Use (Habitat, Farmland and Suburban) and Life Cycle (Energy to build run and landfill a car. Alternatives to cars are bus, bike walk, car share, work from home or Family.
Need better public transportation so people will try it. Steve asked for his take on Electrical vehicles and he stated it's a small step, a lot going into building, very heavy and size is dangerous and expensive.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

- ***Natural Features Protection (NFP) Review Board***– Mr. Glasser (Absent)
- ***Air and Water Quality*** – Mr. Glasser (Absent) Dever – Chemical Spill is 94% contained and was lifted from no contact. City can handle up to 250 Gallons and was in their capacity to handle the spill. Testing went up to Muskegon.
- ***Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection*** – Ms. Greshak (Nothing New)
- ***City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission*** – Ms. Jondle – Vacation to Narrow Water Street building to close to Arcadia Creek recommended by Planning Commission.
- ***Tree Committee*** – Mr. DeWhirst – Removing trees at Oakland by Angling Rd at County Club, new project for better traffic flow and move 10 trees with a 3 to 1 ratio replacement, possibly going in across the street. Dever asked size and Thomas will look into. Tressa asked if any requirements on or if local species? and answer will be from Tree Committee and Public Services native and shade trees possibly. City Water Project on Lum Street is needed for Public Safety to fight fires and need more water pressure – \$20 Million Grant from Eagle with specific requirements with tree/water lines and to tear up roads with the Sycamore trees. Additional fees to plant trees in yards and who is responsible? We will have contracts is for planting and watering of 5 times a year. If people want to

adopt a tree. He also introduces Urban Wood Network Woodworking with Sawmills for woodworking. Since there is a ban on burning. There is a Chapter in Midwest Detroit/Grand Rapids/Ann Arbor for tree cutting/trimming class, tree tenders at Penn State and it is a Zoom class. With the Ice Storm limbs/trees they were ground up and the trees can be used and recycled into floors or mulch. They recommend mulch around root area, grass doesn't have the right chemicals to start a new tree.

- ***Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council*** – Ms. Dever – Water Quality Project still decided to send letter recommending about the Zoning Proposal even though it was withdrawn. Closer to finding someone to Manage the Land Management Plan.
- ***Parks & Recreation Advisory Board*** – Mr. Liekis (Absent)
- ***Kalamazoo River Watershed Council*** – Mr. Benac (Absent)
- ***Wellhead Protection Program Committee – Quarterly*** - Jean Hess (May)
- ***Odor Task Force – Quarterly*** – Mr. Benac (May) (Absent)
- ***Community Sustainability Plan*** (roughly quarterly) – Mr. Gish (see above)
- ***Waste*** – Chair Dever (see above)

CHECK PHONE LINES AND STREAMING FOR COMMENTS:

311 can be dialed within City or outside City at 269-337-8000

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.