

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 16TH 2024, MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Sharon Dever; David Benac, Vice-Chair; Tressa Greshak, David DeBack, Robb Liekis, Thomas Dewhirst, Rachel Jondle, Stephen Romenelli, Damaris Potter

ABSENT: Loraine Smith

STAFF: Carrie Soule (recording secretary)

OTHERS: Justin Gish, *Community Sustainability Plan*,
Alexa Hemp, Gail Walter, Birds

ROLL CALL:

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

ASSURANCE OF LIVE STREAMING (Facebook/YouTube)

Recording/Streaming of the meeting was confirmed, with community members joining via a link posted on the City's Facebook page.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (10/16/2024)

Chair Dever asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the October 16, 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 08/21/2024

Chair Dever asked the Committee Members if there were any changes to the August 21, 2024 meeting minutes. A misspelled board member name in meeting minutes, changed and submitted.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Individual/Announcements: Iris Potter - Deer; more information on the Urban Deer with a phase 1 data report with four action areas, Education Program, modified fencing, feeding enforcement and disposing of deer carcass program.

New Applicant-Justin Sanders: Lives in City Limits with plans to set roots, Grad Student and WMU; has done projects on Addressing Climate Change to water supply and budget planning. He was on a sub-committee at Styrker for the food container initiative. Chair Dever motioned to recommend, Romenelli seconded with a unanimous approval.

News/Educational Items: Gail Walter, Birds - Please see attached presentation

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 the discussion for comments by others. PROCEDURAL ITEMS (AS NEEDED)

Attendance By-laws - Questioning, what are the by-laws for other committees and commissions. We have a full board with 10 members, will wait until November to see if a problem with other committees. By-laws are published on the website.

Sub Committee Suggestions – Urban Deer, No Mow May and Wildlife Natural Resource Protection

It was suggested that these topics be rolled into the NFP Board, put up for Motion/Vote. After discussion it was decided that Urban Deer/Wildlife and Natural Resources with interested parties Tressa Greshak and David Benac and No Mow May/Natural Resource Protection/Native Plants have a subcommittee, parties interested are Damaris Potter, Rachel Jondle.

Motion for the 2 separate subcommittees pending names made by Tressa Greshak and Sharon Dever seconded with a unanimous vote.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Kalamazoo River – Litter Waste Update – City Snapshot – Looking at the trash, WMU students have a group RSO that wants to help pick up the trash. Going to start meeting monthly, 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Jean Talanda – Quarterly Report - No report

Community Sustainability Plan – Justin Gish

Events:

Home Energy Seminar – Saturday, October 19th, 2024, located on Northside on Park St from 9 to 3. EGLE will be there as a speaker, free food and prizes and EV car show.

Great Lakes for Solar – Tuesday, November 12th, 2024, located at Brewery Outre – 567 E Ransom starting at 7pm, arrive early to mingle and learn about sustainability in Kalamazoo.

RSVP online – www.2glrea.org/events-1/solarize-kalamazoo

NEW BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Natural Features Protection (NFP) Review Board – Mr. Glasser – No Update

Air and Water Quality – Mr. Glasser - No Update

Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection – Ms. Greshak – No Update

City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission – Ms. Jondle – No Update

Tree Committee – Mr. DeWhirst – No Update

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council – Ms. Dever – Viewed a report about a water quality project that's been being done and had people explain hundreds of tests that have been being done on the road salt that's coming in off the highway in the Asylum Lake. Discussion on the deer dying throughout the city and other places due to a disease in the water, should go away with the colder temperatures/winter.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Mr. Liekis – No Update

Kalamazoo River Watershed Council – Mr. Benac – No Update

Wellhead Protection Program Committee – Quarterly - Jean Talanda

Odor Task Force – Quarterly – Mr. Benac – No Update

CHECK PHONE LINES: No phone calls

COMMENTS: No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

