

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 20TH 2024, MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Sharon Dever; Tressa Greshak, David DeBack, Rachel Jondle, Stephen Romenelli, Damaris Potter and Justin Sanders

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

STAFF: Carrie Soule (recording secretary)

OTHERS: Justin Gish

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 (11/20/2024)

Chair Dever asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the November 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 10/16/2024

Chair Dever asked the Committee Members if there were any changes to the October 16th, 2024 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/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Alexa finished her term and we have a new member, Destiny in the Sustainability department.

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.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Discussion of future status of member who missed more than three meetings.

Bylaws state the committee assesses after 3 absences, Officers can decide/vote but Associate members can have their voices heard but will not be able to vote. To be reinstated you would need to go in front of City Commission. After the first of the year we will all be on the same page and keep the 3 absences rule, which will then go to a vote. The co-Chair is not at the meeting to vote so wait until the December meeting.

An attendance policy motion assesses a person's position after 3 absences to see if they want to step down to an Associate position if they think it might still be an issue or removal.

2. Discussion of 2025 officer positions to be voted on in January 2025.

Chair Sharon Dever will be terming off the board, looking for a replacement chair. Will be voted on in January meeting by ballot for any open positions.

BIRD-FRIENDLY WINDOW DESIGN

Chair Sharon read through all requirements that were supplied to the committee for reference and approval to take to City Commission for vote.

Seems Expensive the way it's written, needs to be simplified. Need discussion with contractors, homeowners and/or stakeholders with more input. Need to ask more questions and have Gail attend to discuss in more depth. Will want Historic District also involved, need to table until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Imagine Kalamazoo 2035-Meeting on the Go** discussion with Damaris Potter presenting, answering questions about changes, challenges, and happy and healthy City within the last 10 years. Each member were asked 5 questions to take back to the IK 2035 Committee.

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 – Presenting CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) for next year concerning construction, roads, replacing water lines is in the works.

Tree Committee – Mr. DeWhirst – No Update

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council – Ms. Dever – Need someone to be a liaison starting beginning of year, once a month, interest from David DeBack volunteered. Wrapped up the Education of the Swamp water project, other parts still ongoing.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Mr. Liekis – Open Position with Robb leaving Board, 7pm start times on meetings.

Kalamazoo River Watershed Council – Mr. Benac – No Update

Wellhead Protection Program Committee – Quarterly - Jean Talanda

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

Waste – Stephen Romenelli - October 1.7758 tons of recyclables, 4437 pounds of electronics, leaf collection starts November 4th – December 20th, December 28th and January 25th will be Electronic events; more information to follow.

CHECK PHONE LINES: No phone calls

COMMENTS: Kennedy Williams; Non-profit public scholarship for Environmental clean-up, Institute of public scholarship, Housing Insecurity issues that have been being talked about (homeless). Working on permit's for Gull Road, Brownfield site. Cost that comes with it is the environmental cleanup, working on for 3 years with an advisory committee to get input from housing insecurity candidates and connect them with resources. Already through Site plan and waiting on funding, hoping to break ground this summer.

Rita Chandler (Institute of Public Scholarship) Following a bike path and it was a dead-end and into railroad tracks. Downtown Ambassadors in the neighborhood associations are able to clean-up other neighborhoods as well. Centralized resource hub for needs to educate and help with housing, food, car repairs, environmental, events, etc. Place to submit information after a forum?

Imagine Kalamazoo meetings/website, who do we contact for IK2035.

The forum is upcoming December 10th for IK2035 and you can submit through their site, also there is a survey you can check out.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.