

Agenda

Environmental Concerns Committee

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, May 21, 2025

4:30 PM

City Commission Chambers – 241 West South Street

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

(Action: Motion to approve the agenda)

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes from the Environmental Concerns Committee meeting on March 19, 2025 **(Action: Motion to approve)**
2. Minutes for March 19, 2025 meeting.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

F. REPORTS

1. Natural Features Protection Review Board
2. Air and Water Quality Report
3. Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection
4. Planning Commission
5. Tree Committee
6. Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council
7. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

- 8. Kalamazoo River Watershed Council
- 9. Odor Task Force
- 10. Waste Working Group
- 11. Native Species & Urban Landscape

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Discuss adoption of updated bylaws.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

K. ADJOURNMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Agendas for the regular meetings of the Kalamazoo City Environmental Concerns Committee are available on the Internet at: www.kalamazoo.org. You may also use the QR Code below to access agendas and agenda packets.



QR Code to Access the Agenda & Agenda Packet Use the camera on your phone or mobile device to scan the QR Code and then follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

The link will take you to <https://kalamazoomi.portal.civicclerk.com/> where you can view the meeting agendas and agenda packets.

The Kalamazoo City's Environmental Concerns Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall. These meetings are streamed live on the Public Media Network (channel 190 for Charter customers, channel 99 for U-Verse customers) and on the City's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

Public Comments at this meeting may either be made in person or by calling 1-888-382-9556 during the Public Comment periods.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

March 19th, 2025 - MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Benac, Chair, Justin Sanders, Vice-Chair, David DeBack, Stephen Romanelli, Damaris Potter, Thomas Dewhirst, and John Eric Kreuzer

ABSENT: Tressa Greschak, Rachel Jondle, Reeta Chandler, and Mike Thompson (Leaving the board due to scheduling conflicts)

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)

The recording/Streaming of the meeting was confirmed, and community members joined via a link posted on the City's Facebook page.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (03/19/2025)

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 02/19/2025

David Benac, Chair asked the Committee Members if there were any changes to the February 19th, 2025, meeting minutes. Thomas Dewhirst motioned to approve with 2nd by Stephen Romanelli, all approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

COMMENTS BY OTHERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS/COMMUNICATIONS:

David Benac asked if there were any comments on the phones. There were no callers.

REPORTS

Natural Features Protection (NFP) Review Board– Mr. Kreuzer – 3 member seats to fill, they are actively looking for members this expertise in Water Quality, Botanist Biologist and a non-professional.

Air and Water Quality – Ms. Chandler – No update

Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection – Ms. Greschak and Mr. DeBack – Working on a brief outline for the concerns into the history of the deer population, will be asking for money in the coming year.

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

Tree Committee – Mr. Dewhirst and Ms. Greschak (Alternate) – No update

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council – Mr. DeBack – Project with Kaiser Associates and the Chemist Matt Reeves. They published a paper that is about the catchment basin on Drake Rd by Asylum Lake to strip out chloride from wash or runoff from salting in the wintertime, looking into a portable machine that could help with that process. Woods Lake is more critical because it lacks the streams coming in or out. The Ecological group is working with a group, the Wild Ones which comes in and addresses invasive species and any other plant questions. Bill Snyder from Mason also presented on invasive species and Asylum Lake.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Open – No update

Kalamazoo River Watershed Council – Mr. Benac – Long discussion about historical issues that have prevented some people from using the rivers and want to maintain that commitment.

Odor Task Force – Mr. Benac – Not Met

Waste Working Group – Mr. Romanelli and Mr. Sanders – Discussed the program with the cameras on the trucks and sending out customized mailers to people with photos of their erroneously placed products to educate people. 607 Feedback mailers sent out and 33 new recycling carts added with Spring cleaning starting April 1st, 2025. 159 tons of recyclables were collected, 1,059 lbs of household hazardous waste. WMU has established a student group for trash cleanup.

Native Species & Urban Landscape – Ms. Potter – No update

Wellhead Protection Program Committee – Quarterly - Jean Talanda – No update

Justin Gish – Sustainability: Destiny talked about the Buzz in the Zoo initiative, in place of No Mow May, that will be in support of the pollinators and with the kickoff of the yard sign contest on April 24th, 2025; listed in Events

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Discuss subcommittee goals and mission.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Presentation on green burial practices given by Peter Quakenbush from West Michigan Burial Forest & Forest**

EVENTS

April 12th – 13th, 2025 – Riverfront and Forest Clean-up at Mayor's River Front Par and Verburg Park, to sign up please go to this website! <https://www.miwaterwaysstewards.org/kalamazoo-parks-beautification.html>

April 18th, 2025 – Earth Day Rally, Meet at Noon at Heritage Hall, and march to circle W for rally and activities. 12-4 pm; Check @wmu_climate on Instagram for updates

April 22nd, 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2025 – Earth Day/Arbor Day events more information at Kalamazooearthday.com

April 24th, 2025 – KIA will have a kickoff event for Buzz in the Zoo with a design contest with the students for our signs for the season, each category for Elementary, Middle, High, and College Students.

April 26th, 2025 – Next Recycling drop off at Mayor's Riverfront Park

CHECK PHONE LINES: No phone calls

COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

