

Agenda

Environmental Concerns Committee



City of Kalamazoo

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

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 April 15th, 2026 **(Action: Motion to approve)**

a. April Minutes

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. May 22, 2026 a tree planting event in Frays Park from 4:30p-6:00p

2. May 30, 2026 invasive species pull at Glen Park North from 10am-12pm.

3. May 31, 2026 rain barrel and composter orders are due. Pick up on June 5 at 1523 Riverview Drive from 4pm-7pm.

4. June 9, 2026- Tire Recycling Event at 322 E. Stockbridge from 1pm-7pm. Must register online to drop off tires. Contact Kalamazoo Conservation District for more information.

5. June 20, 2026 Kalamazoo River Cleanup from 10am-12pm at Mayor's Riverfront Park.

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

1. Subcommittee restructuring
2. Recommendations to Kalamazoo City Commission
 - a. Fire at recycling facility on King Highway.
 - b. ECC involvement with Asylum Lake Transfer
3. Green Zoning Discussion

H. NEW BUSINESS

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

K. ADJOURNMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Get news, information, and alerts from the City of Kalamazoo. Sign up at www.kalamazoocity.org/connect, follow @KalamazooCity on Twitter, and search for The City of Kalamazoo on Facebook.

Agendas for the regular meetings of the Kalamazoo City Environmental Concerns Committee are available on the Internet at: www.kalamazoocity.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 Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026, 4:30 p.m. | City Hall, 241 W South Street

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Benac, Chair, Rachel Jondle, Vice-Chair, Stephen Romanelli, John Eric Kreuzer, Thomas Dewhirst, David DeBack, Reeta Chandler, Luke Zimmer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Justin Gish, Kiana Jones (Recording Secretary)

OTHERS PRESENT: None

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair David Benac

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.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

DIRECTOR JONDLE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA SECONDED BY DIRECTOR DEBACK

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DIRECTOR JONDLE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBUARY AND MARCH SECONDED BY DIRECTOR DEBACK

D. COMMUNICATIONS

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. No comments were received from the audience or the live stream call-in line.

F. REPORTS

1. Natural Features Protection Review Board
 - a. The March 24th meeting focused on the Westgate Sports Complex project at 1617 N Drake. Phase 1 was approved after the site layout was redesigned to meet the mandatory 25% woodland cover requirements. Phase 2 will undergo further site plan review.
2. Air and Water Quality Report
 - None
3. Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection
 - a. No report
4. Planning Commission
 - At the March 25th meeting new member nominations were approved. On April 8th special use permits

were approved for transitional housing at 912 and 915 Washington Ave and a new Quick Trip gas station at 3810 East Cork Street.

5. Tree Committee

No reports

6. Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council

The board discussed the transfer of management and ownership of the Asylum Lake from WMU to Kalamazoo County. The county has agreed to maintain current conservation restrictions. The transfer includes a \$2.3 million endowment fund for lake operations, the committee noted that the county oversight might offer more transparency through elected officials.

7. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The department is currently facing staffing shortages and is proposing budget changes to consolidate part-time positions into full-time roles. Park attendance is reportedly up.

8. Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

The council is seeking donations of used kayaks and canoes for youth programs. A trailer and boat repair event is scheduled for April 30th.

9. Odor Task Force

No report

10. Waste Working Group

a. No report

11. Native Species & Urban Landscape

a. No report

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. New Member Interview

The committee interviewed Katie Bloom, a resident of the Winchell neighborhood. Mrs. Bloom detailed her extensive background in environmental advocacy, including leading a lake restoration task force in South Dakota and her early involvement in community recycling.

DIRECTOR DEBACK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEW MEMBER AND RECOMMEND HER APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY COMMISSION SECONDED BY DIRECTOR JONDLE

2. Subcommittee Restructuring

The board discussed a proposal to reorganize subcommittees into two categories, liaisons to observe governmental boards like Planning or Parks and working groups to handle specific thematic projects. This aims to better align these groups with Community Sustainability Plan and to be more proactive in site plan reviews.

3. Green Zoning/Space Preservation Report

Recommendations regarding ECC participation and fire safety were finalized and sent to the City Commission for their upcoming meeting on April 20th.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

None

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Kalamazoo County is working on a new materials management plan; a public meeting is scheduled for May 20th to discuss composting. The city's composting pilot program continues to distribute countertop

containers for food scraps at sustainability events. Citizens were encouraged to use 311 for questions regarding city functions or code enforcements.

K. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.



presents

Tree Planting in Frays Park



With Free Menchie's!

Date:

Friday, May 22nd
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Location:

1006 Piccadilly Rd
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
Park at Stafford Road!

<https://bit.ly/4cNuaB6>



Rain Barrels Available Now!

Online Orders DUE:
May 31, 2026
Mail - In Orders DUE:
May 29, 2026

Join us for
Pick-up & Painting

JUNE

5

1523
RIVERVIEW DR.

4PM-
7PM

opt to get your
barrel painted by a
Kalamazoo artist!



Visit: upcycle-products.com/mi-programs/krwc/
To order your Rain Barrel



THE THIRD ANNUAL
**Kalamazoo River
 Cleanup**

JUNE 20, 2026, 10:00* AM - 12:00 PM

REGISTER HERE



*JOIN US FOR FREE FOOD & DRINKS
 AT OUR AFTER PARTY CELEBRATION
 MAYORS RIVERFRONT PARK | 12:00PM - 2:00PM
 *Launch time for in-river watercraft 9:00 AM**



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



REGISTER AT: KALAMAZOORIVERCLEANUP.ORG