

Agenda

Environmental Concerns Committee

City of Kalamazoo



Thursday, July 16, 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 May 20, 2026] (Action: Motion to approve)

- a. May 2026 Minutes

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. July 18th, 2026 Scrap Tire Event at 322 Stockbridge.
2. July 25th, 2026 EPS Drop Off Event at Mayor's Riverfront Park
3. Textile Recycling Pilot Results
4. Rain Barrel Sale Recap
5. Glen Park North Invasive Species Pull Recap
6. Community Education Courses Update
7. City of Kalamazoo Awarded Gold Status by the MI Green Communities Challenge

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Email to ECC

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. Discuss subcommittee working session date and location.
2. Discuss green zoning.
3. Discussion on stadium lights near Asylum Lake.

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

May 17, 2026, 4:30 p.m. | City Hall, 241 W South Street

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Jondle, Vice-Chair, John Eric Kreuzer (acting as Chair), Reeta Chandler, Luke Zimmer, Katie Bloom

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Dewhirst, David DeBack, David Benac

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 John Kreuzer

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 ZIMMER

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

D. COMMUNICATIONS

Justin reported the following upcoming events

- May 22nd Tree planting event at Fra Park 4:30pm-6pm
- May 30th Invasive Species pull at Glen Park North 10am-12pm
- Ongoing through May 31st rain barrel and composter sale (online orders). Pickup is June 5th at the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council office
- June 9th Tire recycling event at 322 East Stockbridge 1pm-7pm, online registration required
- June 20th Kalamazoo River cleanup at Mayor's Riverfront Park 10am-12pm

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Reid Williams (Now Kalamazoo/Local Journalism Foundation): introduced a group of students from Kalamazoo College participating in the Center for Civic Engagement who requested to attend this specific committee meeting.
- b. Iris Potter (Written Communication): Submitted an email expressing concern that the phone in comment period is cut off too quickly, requesting that staff wait at least a minute longer for callers to connect.

F. REPORTS

1. Natural Features Protection Review Board
 - a. Approved phase 2 of the sports complex pending site plan approval. The board is discussing potential amendments to the natural features overlay to align with 2040 goals and climate programs.
2. Air and Water Quality Report
 - a. No reports
3. Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection
 - a. No report
4. Planning Commission
 - a. No reports
5. Tree Committee
 - a. No reports
6. Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council
 - a. Still working though ECC recommendation to City Commission on oversight.
7. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
 - a. The Milham Park project is proceeding well
8. Kalamazoo River Watershed Council
 - a. No reports
9. Odor Task Force
 - a. No report
10. Waste Working Group
 - a. No report
11. Native Species & Urban Landscape
 - a. No report

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Subcommittee Restructuring

The committee discussed Chair Benac's suggested list of liaisons and subcommittees.

A Motion Was Made by Director Kreuzer Seconded by Zimmer to Schedule a Public Working Session to condense and modernize these groups

2. **Green Zoning/Space Preservation Report:** Discussion centered on defining "Green Zoning" and updating city codes to meet current climate and sustainability realities. The committee intends to invite the City Planner to a future meeting for further clarification.
3. **KMR Fire Update:** Commissioner Hess provided a formal city response to the March 9th, 2026, fire at Kalamazoo Metal Recycling
 - The fire burned for 14 hours, the specific cause is unknown
 - The city is expanding its air quality sensor network to include VOC detection and 24/7 alert protocols
 - Inspections (including drones) detected no oil sheen or discharge into the Kalamazoo River
4. **Asylum Lake Transfer:** The ECC continues to request a seat in the County Parks Department to assist in managing the Asylum Lake Preserve

H. NEW BUSINESS:

WMU Lighting and Noise: Concerns were raised regarding Western Michigan University's plans for night lighting and noise at its soccer facility, which is adjacent to Parkview Hills and Asylum Lake. Staff clarified that the city lacks direct jurisdiction over WMU property as it is a state entity.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. No reports

J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- a. No reports

K. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting adjourned



Outlook

Stopping Server Farms in Kalamazoo.

From N.S. McMahon <nathaniel.s.mcmahon@gmail.com>**Date** Fri 6/12/2026 9:41 AM**To** Environmental Concerns Committee <environmental@kalamazoocity.org>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I recently saw several articles about a local business owner selling their site for an AI server farm. There is significant research to show that these things are not only wasteful and environmentally destructive, but significantly raise utility prices in the cities that they are building. As a citizen of Kalamazoo, I am writing to express my concern about these server farms popping up within the city. I'm hopefully adding my voice to a choir to state that I do not want these types of businesses in my city and community, and I hope that local government will take action to prevent them from showing up.

Thank you for your time,
Nathaniel McMahon.