

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting Minutes: April 24, 2024

Call to Order: 6:35 AM

Present: Maria Rotunda, Paul Farquhar, Linda Alison, Michael Fitch, Holli Arnett, Jenni Braun Paliszeski, Jennifer Fugita, Bridger Tomlin (Staff Liaison), Claire Carmelia (City Council Liaison) attends by video for first 30 minutes.
(no public attendance)

Approval of minutes and tonight's agenda: Motion approved and passed

Introductions: welcoming of new member, Holli Arnett

Review of Great Global Cleanup at Westminster station: Members agree that the event went well and that there was less trash than previous events. Possibly do again in the fall, Claire had mentioned that we could possibly get wading gear and such from the City to get a more comprehensive clean up in the creek.

Discussion of new Sustainability Recycling Drop-off Center: The first customer was former chairman, Chris Stimpson. Reviewed the volunteer schedule for the official kick-off event. There will be a table with stickers, pamphlets, provide general info, will be light refreshments.

Discussion of 2024 EAB community events: After discussing the pros and cons, the board decides on Summer Block party (Friday June 7), EV showcase (July-August, TBD), Westyfest, (Oct 19), Holiday lighting (Dec 7). Th EAB decide to not do Movies in the Park or July 4th. Vendor applications are due soon – Bridger will submit. The tabling topics were decided to be the following:

- Summer Block Party: the new Sustainability Recycling Center
- EV Showcase: Electric vehicles and transportation
- Westyfest: Leaf, pumpkin, and yard/organic composting; tree canopy and Emerald Ash Borer
- Holiday Lighting: lighting and energy efficiency. Xcel Energy will provide LED light kits

Bridger passed on information that the vendors at these events are required to include zero-waste practices at their booths

Bridger remembers another event the EAB has been requested to assist with – the annual Water Festival: 70 or so presenters, run school children through various educational presentations, need 3 or 4 volunteers to help out with set up, logistics, teardown and cleanup. The event is at FRCC on May 9th. Paul, Linda, maybe Jenni may have time to assist.

Discussion of EAB web page: Acknowledge the EAB webpage is a subset under the Boards and Commissions webpage for the city. The purpose of the EAB – recycling is important but should not be our main focus, there are many other issues out there. Also discuss focus of topics for our presentations i.e.: Westyfest – raise level of knowledge on leaf and limb recycling, pumpkins and such since event is in November. Bring up other important issues such as tree canopy to fight municipal heat sources. Other examples that should be important to the EAB are things like tree islands, composting, xeriscaping, reduced water usage. Focus on services city offers such as water audits, bee pollinators, air quality, use of the new sustainability center educational areas for information dissemination / maybe posters, impressive staffing implementation.

Debrief of follow-up on Front Range Sustainability Board/Commissions Meeting: Maria provides debrief on conversation with Jonathan Koehn and the City of Boulder’s chair, Herman Villaneuva.

- They discussed that the regional meeting should probably have an overarching topic – such as extreme heat mitigation, water conservation, soil, transportation, or conserving electricity.
- They discussed that there should be a steering committee to plan for the next three sessions.

Discussion was had on the next meeting which will be hosted by Broomfield:

- Maria may send email to Alex Moore-Vandyke (Broomfield staff) on results of the update meeting.
- Much of the regional meeting’s focus should still be on networking.
- Discussion was had on impact of sunshine rules, probably not applicable to the regional meetings. Each municipality should probably check with their city attorney on this matter.
- It was suggested that there should be a general speaker for each meeting as a way to disseminate information and as part of networking and research.

Review of Westminster City Council Agenda: Review of agenda items on the City website. Bridger provides a copy from the website for notes from 4/15 to 5/13. The agenda for 5/6 includes the action item of the 2023 Sustainability Report. Bridger provides copies of the report for the group.

Discussion on updating and revising the EAB mission statement: Members suggest that the statement is more of a proclamation and list of duties. Members suggest aligning it more with the City’s Strategic Plan and/or the Sustainability Plan. Bridger relays that the EAB can craft their own mission statement as long as it aligns with the EAB’s code. Any changes can not conflict with the code. Holli with her marketing background comes up with an impromptu version of an upbeat example which is discussed briefly and passed on the Maria to refine.

Future agenda planning: Desire to learn about the City Hall North Lawn Landscape Transformation Project. Is this an example of where the EAB could provide input before the presentation? Maybe at least be able to use the project as an example of water savings at one of our booth events. Include in discussions of xeriscaping at the regional meeting as well.

Additional Updates: During the Water Drinking Facility CAT Meeting—the City was able to redesign the proposed water plant and associated cost from 30 MGD to 14.7 MGD because Westminster has done such a great job of reducing water consumption by various sustainability measures. Possible topic for one of our booth events.