

Environmental Advisory Board
July 31, 2024
Meeting Agenda

Attendance:

Bridger Tomlin (staff liaison)
Jennifer Fugita
Linda Allison
Jenni Braun

Maria Rotunda
Michael Fitch
Holli Arnett
Nate Christianson

Call to Order

6:37 p.m.

Roll Call

Agenda Approval: *Motion to approve – Jen – 2nd Linda – All approved*

Approval of Minutes from the June 26, 2024 meeting: *Motion to approve – Holli – 2nd Linda – All Approved*

Public Comment

6:40 p.m.

New Business

- Presentation on City urban tree canopy projects by Bryan McCoy City Forester
- Discussion about extreme heat and heat resilience
 - *Received from Bryan McCoy*
 - *Estimated 36,000 trees on public property 10% public trees*
 - *Very concerned about Emerald Ash Borer – starting to see some areas being very strongly affected by this.*
 - *IRA Grant – Inflation Reduction Act Grant through the US Forestry*
 - *\$230,000 granted to plant trees*
 - *321 trees to be planted fall of 2024, using outside company and they are to plant trees and water for one year*
 - *Residents where trees are planted will be given instructions on how to care*
 - *Evaluation is being made on where trees are to be planted, disadvantaged neighborhoods, right of way areas*
 - *Trees will be drought tolerant and recommended for our climate*
 - *The city does have resources on website on trees they recommend to plant.*
 - *Heat Canopy – Reducing Urban Heat*
 - *Research has shown that shade trees can reduce heat mitigation*
 - *Westminster has 11% tree canopy coverage 20% is recommended*
 - *More trees do not mean more water, research has shown that more trees can mean less water*
 - *Trees help with heavy rainfalls, branches slow down the water, roots soak up the water.*

Old Business

- Discussion of EAB mission statement and goals

- *Sharon is concerned that the wording in the mission statement is a little long and not grammatically correct.*
- Discuss City Strategic Plan Priorities and Principles and EAB integration
 - *Submitted – aligns with regional initiatives, mission statement, integrates with city priorities, goals and plans.*
 - *Bridger to send over a new strategic plan for us to review.*
- Review regional board initiative progress to date
 - *Nothing new to report. Miranda from Lafayette is using a new tool Pol.is (website) Hernon has a lot of data he is researching*
 - *Maria would like to have a networking event possibly in November/December. Meet and greet the regional board with possible light refreshments. Just to network and get to know everyone better*

Staff Reports or Other Announcements:

- New Sustainability Staff
 - *New staff member joining the team Jamie Gott*
- Update on the Sustainability Center
 - *Single stream is only available to Westminster residents, have been overwhelmed with single stream*
 - *All other services are open to everyone*
 - *Soon will be able to recycle mattresses – need to purchase a new truck for this*
 - *Plastic Bag Revenue – City receives roughly \$200,000 a year on this. Estimating 3 million bags per year*
- Planning Initiatives – City is looking at adding charging stations, is asking for input
- Grant award updates
 - *Climate Inclusion Reduction Grant*
 - *Colorado was awarded 2 of the 25 available*
 - *DRCOG won the grant and will distribute funds – Westminster is working with DRCOG on this*
 - *5 year project*
- Events: National Night Out, Westy Fest
 - *National Night Out – August 6th – giving away 3 electric lawnmowers*
 - *Westy Fest is in October*
 - *September – EV Showcase Orchards Towncenter*

Adjournment

8:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The mission of the Environmental Advisory Board is to: advise City Council and Staff on environmental matters and sustainability. The EAB engages with our community and advocates for collaborative, bold, and scaleable solutions for a clean, vibrant, and resilient Westminster for current and future generations.