

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 31, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 6:40 pm

ROLL CALL:

Linda Allison
Jennifer (Jenny) Braun Paliszeski
Michael Fitch
Maria Rotunda
Nate Christianson
Paul Farquhar
Claire Carmelia, Council Liaison
Bridger Tomlin, City Staff Liaison

AGENDA APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Linda, seconded by Maria BP, to accept the meeting's agenda; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Nathan, seconded by Jenny, to accept the minutes of the November, 29, 2023 meeting; the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment

Old Business:

Regional Board Summit:

- Review of prior work on this project was provided by Maria
 - Linda relays the history of the first collaboration meeting of regional environmental/sustainability boards/commissions in 2019, pre-covid. Attending from the EAB was her, Chris, and Paul at a Lakewood location. Must have been about 100 people there with great discussions and groups working around tables with each having a central spokesperson.
 - Maria reached out to the Front Range boards/commissions in October, 2023 with a request to get the boards/commissions together to share in best practices and ideas on topics and strategies for regional collaboration.
 - Several boards/commissions responded with interested including Boulder, Lakewood, Longmont, and Broomfield.
- Discussion on next steps inviting boards/commissions:
 - Group consensus on desire to host the event in mid March; likely the week of March 18th. This date is desired as it would provide time for boards to collaborate/work together on Earth Day events.
 - Maria will send another letter to the regional boards/commissions inviting them to attend this event. The letter will highlight that this event will be an informal opportunity for board/commission members to meet each other and learn about what the other boards/commissions are working on. It also is an opportunity for attendees to determine how this group can continue working together on regional initiatives and how to formalize such a commitment.

- Discussion on Event structure:
 - Tables at the vent could have discussion topics or questions for attendees to respond to
 - Identified reason or “why” for the event: We can have more impact on sustainability/environmental topics if we work together regionally and share information and resources together
 - The key desired outcome for the event is to answer the question: “how do we move forward from here?” Additional supporting questions include: does we create a larger group of representatives from each board/commission to steer the group forward? Is there a specific ask/commitment? If so, what frequency does that group meet?
- Review of Action Items:
 - Bridger to look at when the City Hall MPR is available the week of March 19th around 6:30 PM
 - Bridger to identify logistics of providing light refreshments
 - Maria to draft and send letter to the staff liaisons of boards/commissions inviting them to this event
 - Claire to reach out to contacts at Arvada and Thornton

Collaboration Event with School Groups:

- Linda reached out to 8 schools asking for their interest in collaborating on an event/program. She got 1 response back.
- Group discussion on worthiness of additional outreach indicated that the lack of environmental/green/sustainability clubs at schools was a major roadblock.
- Jenny brought up contacting school honor society members especially towards the end of the school year when students are looking for credits. Further discussion on if it’s worth inviting school groups/clubs such as National Honor Society member and/or general students to attend a volunteer event or similar opportunities resulted in opposition to this effort.
- Discussion on if the EAB should have a member of the City’s Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) as an honorary representative to the EAB resulted in a desire for a EAB member(s) to attend the March YAP meeting.
- *Review of Action Items:* Bridger will reach out to Lauren Shoemaker (YAP Staff Liaison) about the possibility of an EAB member attending the March YAP meeting to share what the EAB works on and to invite feedback on what they’d like EAB to work on and what youth priorities are related to the environment/sustainability.

New Business:

Centralized Recycling Site:

- Councilor Carmelia brought up her request to get youth interns to work at the new centralized recycling center.
- EAB as a whole expressed interest in getting involved in the center and directed Bridger to reach out to CMO about how EAB could be involved.

Election Results of New Officers:

Chair: Maria

Vice-Chair: Linda

Secretary: Paul

All positions were voted on with unanimous approval

Board Logistics:

- Identify if/when the new board member training will occur and what the EAB’s commitment is in attending.
- Several board members do not have board onboarding binders and requested them. These members are Jenny, Paul, Maria, and Michael.
- Michael Fitch and Nathan Christiansen do not have name tags and requested them.
- *Review of Action Items:* Bridger will reach out to the City Clerk’s office about the new board member training, board binders, and name tags.

Great Global Clean up:

- Group discussion indicated interest in the entire EAB participating in event. The EAB indicated that next meeting they will finalize their scheduling; Nathan volunteered to lead this. Discussion on past cleanups and using desire to locate this year’s clean up at the RTD Westminster Station Pond rail station by the new Nature Play Park on Lowell.
- Councilor Carmelia asked if the Great Global Clean Up organizers could use compostable clean up bags instead of plastic bags if it’s financially and environmentally worth it.
- Councilor Carmelia asked if there are opportunities for businesses to get involved in the Great Global Clean Up and if the City can help support or encourage businesses to do so.
- *Review of Action Items:* Bridger will reach out to the Great Global Clean Up City organizers about plastic pick-up bags and what current outreach is done to the business community and how the City could support businesses in participating.

Staff Announcements and Other Announcements:

- Bridger provided an overview of the energy efficiency programs the City is offering this year including discounted Home Energy Squad visits from Xcel and a partnership with Energy Outreach Colorado to provide low-income residents high impact weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades through their CARES program.
- Paul informed the EAB that he will serve as the EAB representative to the Drinking Water Treatment Facility’s Community Action Team (CAT).

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting: February 29th, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Chairperson

ATTEST:

_____ Secretary