

The Prairie Village Environmental Committee met at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday January 24, 2024, in the Prairie Village City Hall Multipurpose Room. Recording Secretary was Johanna Comes.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Greg Shelton (co-chair), Terrence Gallagher (co-chair), Ashley Freburg (staff liaison), Warren Smith, Rich Dalton, Penny Mahon, Nathan Kovac, Magda Born, Johanna Comes, Travis Carson, Dave Huyett, Stephanie Alger.

Approval of the Agenda: Stephanie moved to approve the agenda and Rich seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of the December 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes: Nathan moved to approve the minutes and Magda seconded the motion. All in favor.

Presentation:

Johnson County Parks and Recreation board member Heather Rubesch discussed the master plan for the planting of native plants at Meadowbrook Park. Meadowbrook Park is within the city of Prairie Village, but it is managed by Johnson County Parks and Recreation. Native grasses are the primary native plants to be planted at Meadowbrook Park, not native flowers or shrubs. Heather outlined several reasons why the planting of native flowers and shrubs is not a realistic option for Meadowbrook Park:

- 1) Meadowbrook Park is the second most visited park in Johnson County. Because of the high foot traffic there is a risk of plantings being trampled and disturbed.
- 2) The chemicals used on the former golf course make the park soil less-than-ideal for native plants, other than grasses.
- 3) Management of large-scale native plantings involves prescribed vegetation burns, which may not be an acceptable management strategy in Prairie Village.
- 4) The limited number of native seeds available for use by Johnson County Parks and Recreation would be better used in other county park projects where the success of native plant growth is more likely.

Due to these concerns, Meadowbrook Park is not considered an ideal location for the planting of native plants and shrubs. However, Matt Garret, the full-time naturalist with Johnson County Parks and Representatives would be willing to consult with the Prairie Village if the city is interested in native plants and shrubs in their other city parks.

Old Business:

2024 Budget Review. Greg reviewed that Everygy now offers a Smart Thermostat Incentive program, so there is no need for the City of Prairie Village to offer incentivized smart thermostats to residents. Nathan made a motion to remove the smart thermostat program from the Environmental Committee budget. Rich seconded the motion. All in favor.

New Business:

1) 2024 Northeast Johnson County Fall Recycling Event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, September 28, 2024, at the Nations Holding parking lot. Greg discussed that the financial commitment to the event would be the same as last year, not to exceed \$1,000. The commitment includes providing volunteers for the event, promotion and a cost-sharing budget. Promotion for the event would be through the Prairie Village Voice and the City of Prairie Village social media account. Magda made a motion to approve the budget for the Northeast Johnson County Fall Recycling Event. Nathan seconded the motion. All in favor.

2) 2025 Environmental Committee Budget. Greg discussed that programs already planned for the 2025 budget include: the Northeast Johnson County Fall Recycling Event, marketing budget, Go Green Event, Jazz Fest, and the Mayors Monarch Pledge budget. Greg asked the committee to consider other programs to allocate funds for the year 2025. Penny suggested allocating funds to a potential city composting program. Johanna suggested allocating funds to native planting in parks. Nathan suggested allocating funds to electric vehicle charging stations. Terrence discussed that there are plans for EV charging stations to be placed at Wassmer Park through Plug-in KC.

Terrence discussed that there is a plan by the City of Prairie Village to plant and maintain native plants at Franklin Park and Schliffke Park. There is a staff member in the Public Works department who is knowledgeable and interested in planting native plants in Prairie Village city parks that the budget for the plants and maintenance would be separate from the Environmental Committee budget. Greg asked the committee to bring additional ideas to discuss allocation of funds at the February and March Environmental Committee meetings.

Announcements:

Terrence discussed that Boy Scouts from Prairie Village will be mulching Prairie Village parks this spring.

Ashley announced that the City of Prairie Village is holding an open house as part of a Community Center Campus Study. The open house will be at Meadowbrook Park on January 24, 2024.

New Environmental Committee members will be present at the next Environmental Committee Meeting on February 28, 2024.

The Committee recognized and thanked outgoing members Stephanie Alger and Rich Dalton for their service.

Magda will be the recording secretary for the next committee meeting.

Adjourn: Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.