

The Prairie Village Environmental Committee met at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2024, in the Prairie Village City Hall Multipurpose Room. The recording secretary was Nathan Kovac.

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

Members in attendance: Greg Shelton (chair), Chi Nguyen (co-chair) Magda Born, Amy Brooks, Travis Carson, Johanna Comes, Nathan Kovac, Melinda Lewis, Piper Reimer, Rick Wohlfarth, Travis Wymore and Ashley Freburg (staff liaison).

Approval of the agenda: Rick moved to approve the agenda. Johanna seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of the March 2024 meeting minutes: Rick moved to approve the minutes. Nathan seconded the motion. All in favor.

Presentations

Greg introduced Johnson County Commissioner Becky Fast, who gave an update on landfill capacity in the area. There are seven landfills in the region, and the Shawnee landfill gets most of the refuse from Johnson County. Commissioner Fast talked about concerns with the landfills reaching capacity and the challenges with establishing new landfills. Commissioner Fast and the committee members talked about landfill diversion efforts, including recycling, yard waste composting, and food composting.

Greg introduced Community Garden liaison Linda Cosgrove, a gardener at Harmon Park gardens. Linda provided a spring update. The garden at Harmon Park and the Garden at Global Montessori are both full. Garden fees are \$40 per plot. The garden attempts to be self-sustaining with its budget. Annual expenses include wood chips, mulch, water, meat for the summer solstice party, and hose repairs. Linda requested the gardens be considered for any old or extra supplies – hoses wands, fencing – that the city may have. The limited budget does not allow for larger needs like a new garden gate, or the development of three additional garden beds as previously approved by the Environmental Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ashley noted that the aging Siberian Elm tree that shades the garden would be removed in the next 30 days. Urban Forestry Specialist Bridget Tolle had been monitoring the tree and recommended removal because it had become a safety issue with multiple large limbs falling from the tree onto the garden beds.

Piper made a motion to allocate \$500 from the 2024 Environmental Committee Budget to the community garden to be used for a new gate for the fence. Nathan seconded the motion. All

were in favor. The committee also agreed to annually discuss budget allocations for community garden purposes.

Old Business:

Village Fest

A SignUpGenius form has been created and circulated to arrange for volunteers to help with VillageFest. The signup should first be circulated amongst EC members and their friends and family. If that doesn't yield enough support the committee will then consider a public solicitation for additional volunteers.

Supplies for the craft project have been ordered. The Tree Board is interested in participating. Plugin KC may also be interested.

Johanna and Piper explained monarch waystations. A waystation is a place that provides monarch butterflies with the resources they need to survive and reproduce. Milkweed is the host plant for monarch larvae, and nectar plants provide energy for adults. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge subcommittee proposed giving away a waystation (plants to make up the garden as well as funds for an official waystation registration and sign) at Village Fest this year. The winner must be a Prairie Village resident.

Piper made a motion to commit \$300 of the Environmental Committee's budget for a monarch waystation giveaway at Village Fest. Travis Carson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

New Business

Go Green Environmental Fair

In order to be a partner city for the Go Green Environmental Fair, the Environmental Committee needs to delegate someone to serve on the steering committee. The Go Green Environmental Fair Steering Committee meets once a month. Without a committee member, we will not be participating in the event in 2024.

Recycling Stickers

At the committee's request, Ashley solicited quotes to turn the Recycle Spot's "recycle better" flyers into vinyl stickers that can be given away at events and stuck to recycle bins. Moss Printing was the best price. Magda made a motion to purchase stickers in an amount not to exceed \$800. Johnanna seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Announcements

The next EC meeting is on May 22. It will be a working meeting for Village Fest.

The deadline for the July/August Village Voice is May 31.

There will be no guest speaker at the May meeting.

Waivers/Code of conduct acknowledgements are due.

Piper requested adding a parks update to a future Environmental Committee agenda.

Adjourn: Melinda made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nathan seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.