

The Prairie Village Environmental Committee met Wednesday, August 28, 2024 in the Prairie Village City Hall Multipurpose Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members in attendance

Greg Shelton (Chair), Ashley Freburg (staff liaison), Johanna Comes, Nathan Kovac, Travis Carson, Melinda Lewis, Penny Mahon, Travis Wymore, Piper Reimer, Brynn Bettenhausen, and Amy Brooks (minutes).

Approval of the agenda

Melinda moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an additional item, a letter of support for a regional food composting grant. Nathan seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of the June 2024 meeting minutes.

Travis W. moved to approve the minutes. Johanna seconded the motion. All in favor.

Presentation

Jennifer Gunby, Associate Director of State & Local Advocacy | Advocacy & Policy for the U.S. Green Building Council spoke about building decarbonization policies that would be possible for Prairie Village, including our 2030 target and 2050 net zero emissions goals. She said she would share her slide deck with the committee.

Old Business

VillageFest 2024

Observations were that people appreciated the recycling stickers and felt they were helpful. With the kids craft, more people did not come back for finished butterfly this year, possibly due to inclement weather. Ashley also suggested keeping foil backing with the name so kids can identify theirs upon return. Many felt there was a higher turnout than previous years and all booths were well attended. The Johnson County Master Naturalists enjoyed their day as well. Piper has asked if they will return. PlugIn KC gave away 200 cars within 30 minutes. A note for future events - zip ties made hanging signs easier than bungees. Ashley asked that if the committee had any receipts to turn in for reimbursement, they do so before the next meeting. The Monarch Waystation giveaway winner will be notified before the next meeting.

JazzFest 2024

JazzFest will be held September 8 from 3-10 p.m. Volunteers are needed for the Environmental Committee's table from 2-8 p.m. The committee agreed on 2-hour shifts. Nathan, Penny, Amy, and Brynn all volunteered. The booth will focus on composting at home and services available. Tablecloth, stickers, poster and zip ties will need to be grabbed from City Hall next week for set up. Greg will provide a sample compost bucket and liner. Piper has asked about KC Can Compost commitment, but not heard back.

Go Green 2024

The Go Green event will be September 14 from 9 a.m. – noon at the Powell Community Center. Greg, Chi, and Nathan will be volunteering. The topic at the Environmental Committee's table

will be the City's climate action plan. Will bring tablecloth, sign, info pieces on climate action, stickers.

Northeast Recycling Event

The Northeast Johnson County electronics recycling and paper shredding event will be September 28 at the Nations Holding Parking Lot, 9001 W. 67th St. Volunteers are needed from 8:15 to noon. Ashley will re-send link for signup. Prairie Village must have volunteers in order to continue participating in the event.

Climate Action Plan

Last year, the City adopted a municipal climate action plan as it relates to City operations. Work is now underway on a community-wide climate action plan, which is a core component of the Cities Race to Zero. The project team has been defined and has begun working on scope and plan. PVEC may be able to engage in working groups when established. More information will be shared as it is available.

New Business

Composting

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment is applying for a grant to implement county-wide food composting, including 30 composting kiosks for residents. They have asked for letters of support for the grant application. Nathan motioned for the PVEC to send a formal letter of support. Piper seconded the motion. All in favor.

2026 Budget Allocations

Piper would like to propose an addendum to the Prairie Village Parks Master Plan that supports sustainability in the parks. This would include elimination of pesticides and herbicides and incorporation of native plants. A subcommittee formed to address this effort, including Piper, Johanna, Amy and Travis C. Work will begin by researching the efforts at Bennett Park (costs/issues/labor) and other park projects to gather data. The subcommittee will aim to have details by the October meeting.

Committee T-Shirt design

Penny proposed making PVEC t-shirts. Penny moved that Ashley create a design for the group. Johanna seconded. All in favor.

2025 Native Plant Sale

Deep Roots KC is planning to hold a Native Plant Sale on April 12, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in City Hall parking lot. The Monarch Butterfly subcommittee may be interested in having a booth at the event.

Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2024. It may be relocated to Meadowbrook Clubhouse. Greg will verify if relocation is possible so that all can attend the Fall Tree Seminar afterwards.

The Tree Board's Fall Tree Seminar is at 7 p.m. September 25 at Meadowbrook Clubhouse.

Adjourn

Travis W. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nathan seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.