

**The Prairie Village Environmental Committee met at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday April 23, 2025, in the Prairie Village City Hall multipurpose room. The recording secretary was Magda Born.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Members in attendance were Vice Chair Ian Graves, Tamara McMahon, Rick Wohlfarth, Melinda Lewis, Johanna Comes, Nathan Kovac, Amy Brooks, Magda Born, Jeff Roberts, Travis Carson, Travis Wymore, youth member Brynn Bettenhausen and staff liaison Ashley Freburg.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Rick made a motion to approve the agenda, and Nathan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Approval of March 2025 meeting minutes**

Rick made a motion to approve the March 2025 meeting minutes. Tamara seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Old Business**

**Community Climate Action Plan** – Ashley gave an update on the Community Climate Action Plan. In October 2021, the Prairie Village City Council unanimously agreed to join the Cities Race to Zero initiative, which aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions in our community. The city is working to turn its pledge into a plan that delivers results for our community. The city adopted a municipal climate action plan in 2023 to ensure the city’s operations are on track to meet the net-zero by 2050 or sooner. The city is now working on a community climate action plan that will provide residents and businesses with a guide for mitigating or eliminating their carbon emissions. The project is now seeking resident input on where to focus these efforts as we strive to make the net-zero emissions goal a reality in Prairie Village.

Ashley reported that a questionnaire was available online at [www.pykansas.com/CAP](http://www.pykansas.com/CAP) to gather input from residents. The questionnaire will be open until May 19. It has been created in collaboration with and is being administered by the consulting firm, Keramida.

**VillageFest Event Plan** –Nathan had updates about the craft. He reported that custom seed paper to be used for the bookmarks would cost \$400. Ashley said that expense would be covered by the VillageFest budget. The committee already has markers from last year.

Johanna reported that Piper is arranging another kid-friendly activity that will need tent space and another table. She was unsure if the Johnson County Master Naturalists were confirmed yet. A volunteer signup form has not been distributed.

**Community Compost Program Update** – A community compost pilot program has been approved with two drop-off locations – one in Harmon Park near City Hall, and one at Wassmer Park. Exact locations are to be determined with Public Works and KC Can Compost. The projected timeline should have bins in place by July 4, and the Environmental Committee will be able to help residents sign up at VillageFest. The success of the pilot program will be evaluated in January.

**JazzFest food composting** – Rick reviewed quotes from KC Can Compost and from Compost Collective KC for proposals for composting services for JazzFest on September 6, 2025. The scope of the proposals included composting services for 3,500-4,000 attendees, drop off and set up of bins, as well as collection after the event.

Rick noted the following logistical concerns:

- Compost bins must be located in clusters, minimizing or eliminating orphan containers
- Clear, concise and visible signage is a must
- First year participation tends to be lower, as expectations are unclear and unfamiliarity is a barrier
- How will full bins be emptied?
- Communication with staff and vendors regarding composting is important
- Event composting should be promoted ahead of the event

The two proposals are summarized as follows:

KC Can Compost

- Limited KC Can Compost staff available for support on the day of the event
- Will provide a waste diversion and carbon report
- Provide signage for the event
- Has a list of available food service items for vendors to purchase from, at an additional cost
- \$819 up to qty. 25 64-gallon cans

Compost Collective KC

- Can provide a guarantee of 2-4 staff members, possibly additional staff and volunteers as we get closer
- Can provide a waste diversion and carbon report
- Staff will be on site to empty totes as necessary, with some extra totes to swap in and out
- A location for their truck is required to be easily accessible
- \$1,200 ~20 64-gallon cans + 2-4 staff

Rick noted that at least 6-10 volunteers would be needed, in two or three shifts. Seven committee members said they could be there to volunteer. Travis C. suggested providing staff hats printed with “compost bouncer” across the front.

Nathan made a motion to pilot composting at JazzFest with KC Can Compost. Travis W. seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **New Business**

There was no new business before the committee.

## **Announcements**

1. Nathan reminded everyone about the Overland Park recycling extravaganza on April 26 and said volunteers are still needed. Johanna reported that the Deep Roots native plant sale went well. Tamara reported that she attended the Tomahawk Elementary School STEAM night on behalf of the Environmental Committee. The bee keeping display and monarch photo prop were well-received.
2. Next meeting: May 28, 2025
3. Next deadline for the July/August Village Voice is June 5, 2025.

## **Adjournment**

Ian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Travis W. seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.