

The Prairie Village Environmental Committee met at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, 2025, in the Prairie Village City Hall multipurpose room. The recording secretary was Melinda Lewis.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Members in attendance were: Chair Greg Shelton, Vice Chair Ian Graves, Travis Carson, Johanna Comes, Nathan Kovac, Melinda Lewis, Penny Mahon, Tamara McMahon, Piper Reimer, Jeff Roberts, Rick Wohlfarth, and staff liaison Ashley Freburg

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the May 2025 Minutes

Piper made a motion to approve the minutes, and Nathan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business

Village Fest Final Preparations: Greg reported that we now have details on who will be in our space and what the layout will look like. We went over the signups for the volunteers for kids' craft, seedball, and committee info table. Nathan provided samples of the seed paper, and we went over the supply situation (will be stored in the community center). We will be handing out some sample rolls of liners for compost to people who sign up for the composting program at Village Fest.

KC Can Compost Pilot Program Update: Bins will be installed Friday morning at Harmon Park and Wassmer Park. Everyone can download the Metrokey App to get set up for composting and check out the composting experience. Several committee members downloaded the app during the meeting and started getting their accounts set up. Committee members will sign people up during Village Fest, from the committee info table.

CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project) Reporting update: It took a long time to get the report on our community's race to zero. The good news is that our grade improved. We started at a D and have improved to a B, but we did not receive a report this year about precisely what we need to do to improve.

New Business

Jazz Fest Plan & Volunteers: We have no meeting in July so our next meeting is shortly before Jazz Fest. We need to plan and fill in volunteer needs. We are staffing the composting effort at Jazz Fest and will not have an info table this year. We need 8-10 volunteers because KC Can Compost won't have staff at the event. Rick will create a Signup Genius, which KC Can Compost will distribute to their volunteers as well, but we need to fill in the volunteer needs for the event. Travis had indicated interest in creating Compost Bouncer trucker hats, but we have not made progress on getting those hats.

Go Green Event Update – Nathan reported he is on electronics recycling, which is new to the event this year. The event will be October 18 in Mission at Sylvester Powell. The Fall Recycling and Paper Shredding event in Merriam is the week before on October 11. Go Green does want additional volunteers, although feedback has been positive re: numbers who have already signed up. Nathan will send Greg information about signups and volunteer needs.

Announcements

1. Next meeting: August 27, 2025
2. Next deadline for the September/October Village Voice is August 1, 2025 (there is a ½ page article Johanna wrote about the native plant sale in the July/August Village Voice.)
3. Rick pointed out that City Council moved forward with the Municipal Complex, choosing to build to LEED Gold standards and to approve the bonds to finance the project. The timeline has bonds being issued in August and construction contracts awarded in October. Mission Road Bible Church will be vacated in April, and groundbreaking will be shortly after. There has been a lawsuit filed to try to get an injunction against the bond issuance, but it is unclear what impact it will have.
4. Greg announced that Keramida has issued a draft of the Community Climate Action Guide. The goal is to take this into layout next, and then a draft will be presented to the Environmental Committee before it is taken to the City Council for adoption in September. The goal is to get the plan to the committee in advance for questions, and then Greg will ask Keramida to present (virtually) to the committee in August. Keramida has been asked to put together a guide to the services and tactics residents can take to mitigate their carbon footprint, so that PV has a centralized resource to inform decisions, in pursuit of improvements in community-wide metrics. There were 500 respondents to the community-wide survey. Keramida was pleased with the quantity of quality comments to inform the work.

Adjournment

Piper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick seconded the motion. All were in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.