

The Prairie Village Environmental Committee Meeting met at 5:30pm on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, in the Prairie Village City Hall Multipurpose Room. The recording secretary was Jeff Roberts.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31

Members in attendance: Jim Sellers (Chair) Nathan Vallette (Vice Chair), Ashley Freburg (Staff Liaison), Brynn Bettenhausen, Travis Carson, Johanna Comes, Melinda Lewis, Penny Mahon, Piper Reimer, Jeff Roberts, Rick Wohlfarth, Tamara McMahon, Magda Born

Tonight was Jim's and Nathan's first meeting with the committee. The group went around and introduced themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

Rick made a motion to approve the agenda. Johanna seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Approval of the September 2025 Minutes

Piper made a motion to approve the minutes. Rick seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Anne Melia presented on solid waste management. Current scenarios estimate between 19 and 37 years of remaining landfill capacity. Anne discussed how PV can help JOCO meet its waste diversion goals in order to extend landfill life. She also reviewed the current contract with Republic and suggested several contracting ideas, including ensuring collected materials are recycled, building public trust in recycling efforts, and offering fee reductions for smaller carts and senior citizens.

Old Business

Update on sustainability grants (Melinda) -Melinda reported that there are no applications yet. However, some schools have expressed interest and are reviewing ideas. The deadline is March 31. Anyone with connections to a school is encouraged to help spread the word.

Solid Waste contract subcommittee report (Rick) Rick reported on the subcommittee's efforts to develop suggested items for inclusion in the RFP and provided examples. Ashley shared participation and cost numbers from a previous curbside compost pickup program. Nathan reported that discussions may begin in February. Jim requested that cost estimates be added to the items on the list.

Update on status of potential 2026 mattress program (Ashley) Ashley reported that she has not heard back from Sleepy Head Beds and that alternative methods for mattress collection may need to be considered. Bridging the Gap was awarded a grant to reinstate mattress recycling.

Update on compost program (Ashley) The new bins have not yet arrived. The program has collected 50,530 pounds of compost and has 571 registered users. Piper asked whether the program is at capacity. Ashley noted that capacity is sufficient for now, and the new bins are expected to be filled as well.

Report on Climate Action KC meeting (Penny, Rick) Rick and Penny gave a brief overview and requested time on the agenda for the next meeting to present a more detailed report.

Volunteers for OP Recycle Extravaganza Volunteers are needed for the event on April 11th. Tamara committed to volunteering.

Approve 2027 Budget Request Magda motioned to approve the budget request. Rick seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Other Penny described a Repair Café sponsored by ReUseFull and staffed by volunteers who repair items brought in by the public. Nathan shared information about an upcoming event in OP for the committee to observe. Given the limited time and the availability of only one open date to host the event, Piper suggested gathering more information and considering this for next year. The committee agreed.

New Business

Piper requested that the Mayor's Monarch Pledge be added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Announcements

Ashley talked about the 75th year celebration events and asked if we want to have a float in the parade on May 2.

There will be a Drone show coinciding with the volunteer party on October 10.

Ashley will not be in attendance for the next four meetings.

Beginning later this year, we will be meeting in a new location due to construction at City Hall.

Ashley noted that staff has been asked to present on 2024 building codes at a future EC meeting.

Jim will be requesting feedback regarding the committee and meetings.

Adjournment

Piper made a motion to adjourn. Rick seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.