



**Environmental Committee
City of Prairie Village
April 22, 2026**

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Minutes

Rick Wohlfarth moved to approve the March meeting minutes. Mae Ellen Terrebonne seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Presentations

Old Business

75th Anniversary Parade (Jeff)

The parade will be held at 10 a.m. on May 2. Jeff Roberts reported stickers, seeds, and envelopes arrived. He asked for volunteers to walk with the group and hand out seed packets to those watching along the route. Families are welcome to walk with the committee and butterfly wings will be provided for up to 10 children walking with the group.

VillageFest (Johanna/Rick)

Mr. Wohlfarth has coordinated with city staff to reserve the same space as previous years. Johanna Comes reported that MagPie creative will be providing the craft with committee provided volunteer support. She will confirm their infrastructure, space, and volunteer needs.

Mr. Wohlfarth has confirmed the following programming at the event: Environmental Committee info booth, Master Naturalists, beekeeper exhibit, seed ball table, photo prop, butterfly exhibit, and Climate Action KC (tentatively). Nathan Vallette suggested having a composting promotion located at the Harmon Park compost site. If there are not enough volunteers, composting can be promoted in the Environmental Committee space.

A Sign-Up Genius will go out in advance of the event for volunteer support.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge (Piper)

Piper Reimer reported that she met with Keith Bredehoeft to discuss the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, focusing on reestablishing the butterfly garden at Bennett Park, planting a hedge row, and adding additional signage. She advised that Public Works would not recommend moving to entirely chemical free parks.

Drew Richardson suggested that if there isn't an appetite to go completely chemical free in the parks, the City could at minimum remove the honeysuckle located at Wassmer Park and replace it with native plants since it's away from the turf area that requires chemical use. Travis Carson suggested additional training for city staff to learn more about non-chemical maintenance options. Mr. Vallette suggested these efforts be focused on Bennett Park improvements to provide a positive case study prior to moving onto additional parks.

Ms. Reimer reported that Mr. Bredehoeft welcomes committee input on Bennett Park items, and Mr. Vallette asked for volunteers to work with Public Works on this item. Piper, Jeff, Penny, Mae Ellen, and Magda volunteered to form a subcommittee to continue this effort. Garry and Drew will also review the list of chemicals used in city parks to focus efforts on one or two high priority recommendations for possible discontinuation.

Sustainability Grant for Education (Melinda)

Melinda Lewis reported that she reached out to every public and private school in the city from preschool to high school to provide information about the school sustainability grant. She had productive conversations with several entities however, Village Presbyterian Preschool was the only entity that applied. They were awarded an approximately \$500 grant to establish a garden on their property. Ms. Lewis and those on the grant subcommittee will review the program for suggested improvements next school year.

Compost program

Mr. Sellers reported that the compost program was adopted as a permanent program by City Council at its last meeting, with a goal to continue to grow use.

New Business

Committee planning process framework discussion

Mr. Sellers presented a comprehensive list of events, projects, and initiatives that the committee has committed to over the last few years. As committee chairs, Mr. Sellers and Mr. Vallette would like to prioritize projects and establish a framework for adding new initiatives to the committee's scope moving forward to ensure good processes for committee continuity and the efficient completion of projects and programs. Mr. Vallette shared that their goal is to identify a shared vision and priorities that he and Mr. Sellers can champion at the City Council level.

Ms. Lewis suggested that it would be beneficial to identify the committee's strategic aims, and then identify which tasks and projects are going to help the committee accomplish those goals.

The committee expressed concerns about wasting staff time determining costs for unapproved programs, an undue burden to complete the form, a scoring metric that would limit free flowing discussion of ideas, and a need to tie items back to the Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Vallette said that a member's best effort would be sufficient to complete forms and estimate costs, and this exercise is intended to organize rather than dissuade initiatives. Mr. Sellers outlined the framework to submit new ideas and the committee scoring metric and stated that open discussion would be part of the evaluation process.

Mr. Sellers and Mr. Vallette proposed next steps to be a committee review of the action log to identify missing items, and a review of the mission statement.

Informational Items

Upcoming meetings and events

- 75th Anniversary parade and party at Corinth Square - May 2, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Native Plant Sale, City Hall parking lot – May 9
- Habitat Garden Tours - May 9
- VillageFest - July 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

2026 Committee Meeting Dates

- Environmental Committee meeting - May 27, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - June 24, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - August 26, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - September 23, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - October 28, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - December 9, 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn