



PRAIRIE VILLAGE
KANSAS

**Environmental Committee
City of Prairie Village
March 25, 2026**

Call to Order

The following members were in attendance: Magda Born, Mae Ellen Terrebonne, Tamara McMahon, Jeff Roberts, Piper Reimer, Penny Mahon, Garry Polley, Johanna Comes, Nathan Vallette, and Rick Wohlfarth. Staff present: Nickie Lee.

Approval of the Agenda

Tamara McMahon made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Magda Born and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes

February 25, 2026 Environmental Committee meeting minutes

Jeff Roberts made a motion to approve the February 25, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded by Penny Mahon and approved unanimously.

Presentations

Update on 2024 Building Code Adoption Process

Deputy City Administrator Nickie Lee provided an update on the 2024 building code adoption process. The City is reviewing potential updates to its building codes. Cities across Johnson County are undergoing similar reviews. Kansas operates under 'Home Rule,' meaning each city may adopt its own codes, though municipalities attempt to stay aligned with neighboring communities to maintain consistency for contractors and homeowners.

International building codes are updated every three years. Cities in Johnson County generally update codes every six years to balance modernization with stability and avoid frequent retraining for contractors. There is a lot to weigh and consider during this review.

Prairie Village currently operates under the 2018 International Codes. Both building codes and energy codes are under review. Adoption of the 2024 codes is anticipated in early summer following City Council approval.

There will be a lead time for contractors and residents to learn and comply with the new codes. Senate Bill 418 currently under consideration in the Kansas Legislature could affect code adoption and potentially require cities to manage two sets of building codes.

Questions were invited following the presentation.

Old Business

75th Anniversary Parade

Discussion included committee participation by walking, biking, or running rather than using a vehicle.

- Distribution of seed packets
- Stickers and butterfly wings for children
- A bee costume for a volunteer
- QR code linking to Environmental Committee information
- Determining whether a committee banner exists or purchasing one

Ashley will be contacted regarding an existing banner. Additional discussion included volunteer shirts, parade registration, and the possibility of coordinating orders with VillageFest to reduce costs.

Rick Wohlfarth made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$500 for parade supplies. The motion was seconded by Penny Mahon. Motion passed unanimously.

VillageFest

Johanna Comes discussed past participation including bee presentations, butterfly displays, and seed packet distribution.

A local organization, Magpie Creative, expressed interest in hosting a sustainability-themed craft activity at the committee's booth. Volunteers from the Environmental Committee would assist, but their organization would run and provide the craft for the community.

Rick Wohlfarth noted composting will not occur at VillageFest/JazzFest this year due to scheduling demands related to World Cup preparations.

Johanna Comes made a motion to partner with Magpie as well as to continue the committee's participation in VillageFest. The motion was seconded by Rick Wohlfarth and passed unanimously.

Rick Wohlfarth volunteered to serve as the committee liaison with the VillageFest Committee..

2026 Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Piper Reimer provided background on the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and discussed opportunities to strengthen pollinator-supporting actions in the community. The subcommittee for this consists of three community members, and their belief is that more can be done within our community to better align with the mayor's pledge.

Discussion included evaluating pesticide use in city parks and inviting Public Works staff to present about maintenance practices, including the non-pesticide maintenance at Bennett Park. Magda Born noted the committee had previously expected reports regarding non-pesticide areas of Bennett Park and suggested following up with Public Works to see how that has been going.

The committee discussed next steps presented by the subcommittee. The potential costs to implement the suggested changes were discussed, but the costs are unknown at this time. The subcommittee is hoping that post-committee approval of the suggestions that there will be a collaboration effort between the environmental committee and Public Works to strengthen the plan and better define costs/potential funding sources (existing budget vs council ask).

Piper Reimer made a motion to advance the Monarch Pledge language and work with Parks & Recreation to adopt as many actions as possible. The motion was seconded by Magda Born and passed unanimously.

New Business

Announcements

Upcoming meetings and events

- STEM Night at Tomahawk Elementary – March 26
- School Environmental Grant deadline – End of the March reminder
- OP Recycling Event reminder for volunteers. More marketing to come soon.

Adjourn

Rick Wohlfarth made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Tamara McMahon and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Upcoming events

- 75th Anniversary 5K run/walk - March 28, 8 a.m.
- Overland Park Recycling Extravaganza - Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd.
- Large Item Pickup - Saturdays, April 11 - May 2
- 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
- VillageFest - July 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

2026 Committee Meeting Dates

- Environmental Committee meeting - April 22, 5:30 p.m.
- 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.