



TOWN OF ERIE

Meeting Minutes

Sustainability Advisory Board

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 6:30 PM

Town Hall
645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

1. Call Meeting to Order

- A. Called to order by Karen Winkler

2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

- A. Present: Karen Winkler, Rick Kattar, Kathleen Teal, Art Henderlong, Anne Walsh, Renaldo Grami
- B. Absent: Mackenzie McClaskey
- C. Others in attendance: Sustainability Division Manager, Eryka Thorley; Council Member, Anil Pesaramelli

3. Approval of the Agenda

- A. Art motions to approve the February meeting agenda, second by Renaldo and Kathleen, approved

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- A. Kathleen motions to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes, second by Renaldo, approved

5. Public Comment

- A. None

6. General Business

- A. Michéle Crawford (Town of Erie staff) presenting on new agenda format
 - a. Live inks in online agenda – keeps the whole agenda packet in Laserfiche. Allows attachments to be held with the agenda.
 - b. Legistar is the Town agenda management system. If you want to add an attachment to an agenda you need to provide justification that will be included in the system. Eryka and Michele will actually fill out the memo needed, with detailed info and links provided by the requestor.
 - c. Anne, Karen, and Kathleen are up for re-application. Need to resubmit our applications by February 27th. Discussion on applicant recommendations to Council

will take place at March 2026 meeting. <https://www.erieco.gov/1419/Apply-to-an-Advisory-Board>

- d. Presentation for new members, and refresher for returning members, will happen in May 2026.
- e. Agenda items need to be submitted at least one full week before the meeting date. Michele will send out a reminder.

B. Council Member Updates

- a. Study session for EPR and resiliency action plan, Eryka and Emma presented and did a great job. Council seemed very supportive and had relevant questions. Good discussion, going to add a section explaining the goal, aspiration of the resiliency plan.

C. Staff Liaison Updates

- a. Approved for second round of CU Boulder Masters of the Environment student. Goal is to explore implementation. Proposed three topic areas.
 - i. HOA resilience workshop pilot program, tangible threats explored in resiliency plan, identify resources.
 - ii. Extreme heat events are the most tangible threat for the town, identify most vulnerable residents and plan.
 - iii. Reliance hubs in the context of the Community Center. Resilience hub has a very broad definition and is really dynamic, so trying to find a balance for what is needed and what can be provided. It's possible to start smaller. Research good locations in Erie. Library, HOA community centers.
- b. Rebates – live for 2026, not many changes. Did not cut any rebates. Energy efficiency rebates were a smashing success in 2025! Sustainability was able to scale with increased demand and provide for double the number.
- c. Water conservation – Flush and Flow Program – Weld County Youth Conservation Corp. – targeted low-income residents, will replace toilets and other water equipment and replace them as it makes sense and helping them to conserve water. Very targeted outreach for disadvantaged community members. No cost to the person receiving the benefit.
- d. Grant submitted for nicer office space at the recycling center. New shed would have more windows, space to support staff, and better visibility to monitor people coming in.
- e. Draft Sustainability Action Plan to steering committee. Eryka will send it out to the SAB for a first review.
- f. Making a real effort with staff of the town on internal sustainability engagement, starting with a composting challenge in February and March. Facility that has the biggest change year over year will win their choice of a party – breakfast burritos, pizza, or ice cream. Colorado Compost no longer provides a detailed scorecard for town facilities so this will help keep the competitive spirit alive.

D. Sustainability Action Plan Letter of Support

- a. 2019 SAB provided a similar letter. SAB did most of the plan themselves, but keeping with the tradition, SAB would like to send another one.

- b. Motion to approve inclusion of letter of support in the Sustainability Action Plan, Kathleen motions, Art and Renaldo second, Karen Approves.
- E. 2026 priorities brainstorming
 - a. Pollinators District effort, need Mackenzie to update at the next meeting.
 - b. Community Fruit Rescue is up and running, can run on autopilot so long as there is funding.
 - c. EPR messaging will come from Circular Action Alliance (CAA), do we have an opportunity to be part of the educational outreach? Not sure what this might look like but want to keep it on the radar for engagement or networking.
 - I. How can we liaison with HOAs? Are there contacts available? Some. How do we get in front of the HOAs to get them thinking about re-allocating funds to net positive outcomes (i.e. pollinators, compost, etc.). We should be sharing info on our socials and to groups we interact with.
 - II. Rick advises TOE to be proactive on training and education. There will be a gap between start up and fluid operations. Need to get in front of Circular Action Alliance training plans.
 - III. Opportunity to work with the town's Neighborhood Services team for better engagement with HOAs.
 - d. Repair café?
 - e. Send any ideas to Karen and Mackenzie to think about for 2026 / 2027.
- F. 2026 Calendar of Events
 - a. Karen created a SAB calendar for SAB members, all have access. Front loaded all known events and meetings. Check the calendar regularly.
 - b. Biggest need for volunteers is the Arbor and Earth Day event. If at all possible, please volunteer.
 - c. SAB at community events? Partnering with Sustainability? Probably.
 - d. 2025 had 5 farmers markets we attended. Seems right for 2026.
- G. Event Materials Purchases
 - a. Mackenzie to supply reusable water balloons – vote yes, \$100 for materials. Motion to approve, Art, Renaldo second, approved.
 - b. Laser cut items – cannot use the logo right now, conversation ongoing. Can only use the Town of Erie Logo just can't add to the logo – Eryka to send Anne a high-res file.
- H. Arbor and Earth Day Updates
 - a. Event application submitted, vendor application is live.
 - b. TAB and SAB are expected to budget for Arbor and Earth Day and split the cost evenly (new town-directed process). We had not budgeted for this for 2026. \$600 for 2026 for SAB. Need to discuss at planning meeting on Feb 12. Eryka needs the email from Tom (TAB), Karen to forward it to Eryka. She says don't stress.
- I. March Meeting Attendees and Topics
 - a. Kathleen will be absent.
- J. Advisory Board Applications
 - a. Michele covered this above.

K. Board Member Updates

- a. Karen: SAB booklet status? From Nov and Dec action items, where does this stand now? Eryka will work with their comms team on production. Karen to forward the email to Eryka.
- b. \$11,000 awarded in the 2026 budget.
- c. Can anyone create a monthly 'SAB Corner' blurb? Topics of interest. Kathleen volunteers for March, to be submitted by February 20. We started mid-way through 2025.
- d. Can we make a repository of topics to have in reserve? Yes, all can contribute.
- e. Community Fruit Rescue pre-season meeting – February 24th. Budgeted \$750 for 2026, TAB will do an equal share.
- f. Letter from Rose Murphy, Former SAB member

"I believe that the Sustainability Board has done considerable research on pollinators and the flowers that each species needs. Also, there are numerous guidelines out there for low water plants. Each year the town of Erie rents space to a plant vendor. Typically, the vendor sells a lot of non-native, hybrid flowering plants.

Three Suggestions:

Could the Sustainability Board work with the town to suggest, or require, that the vendor sell low water need, pollinator friendly plants?

Could the Sustainability Board set up a booth to educate and encourage the use of more low water use, pollinator friendly plan?

Could the Sustainability Board and the town work with Lowes to encourage them to sell more low water use, pollinator-friendly plants? Set up a workshop through Lowes? Set up a second workshop to educate customers on alternatives to Roundup and other environmentally harmful herbicides and pesticides? These alternatives would need to be available at Lowes and cost at least as much as Roundup."

- I. The plot of land referenced in the letter is slated for development in 2027 so this isn't something that will be an issue long-term.
- II. We are already stretched thin with SAB community engagement. Could possibly as Plum Creek to provide SAB materials at their location.
- III. We have limited influence on Lowe's corporate decision making. Not sure they'd welcome us in to provide workshops that may contradict available products. Could be some limited options for encouraging them to highlight native plants. Table the discussion until the March meeting.

Z. Future Topics for Next Meeting

A. 2026 Priorities

B. Further discussion on Rose's feedback

8. Adjournment

Adjournment at 8:03 pm, next regular in person meeting is Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 6:30pm.