



## Town of Erie Sustainability Advisory Board Application

All advisory board and commission members will be expected to support the priorities and work plan set forth by the Town Council.

This board meets the **first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM**. You are required to notify your chair if you are going to be absent from a meeting. Failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings without a leave of absence approved by majority of the Sustainability Advisory Board could be grounds for dismissal.

Full Name	Karen Winkler
Are you an Erie resident?	Yes
Are you under the age of eighteen?	No
Home Address	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Primary Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Employer	The Wealth Conservancy, Inc.
Job Title/Occupation	Operations Manager
Have you ever been employed by the Town of Erie?	No
Do you work for or own a company that does business with the Town of Erie?	No
What is your highest level of education completed?	Bachelors Degree
Are you currently serving on an advisory board or commission?	Yes
What advisory board or commission are you currently	Sustainability Advisory Board

servicing on?

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Are you currently serving on a board? No

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Are you applying for more than one board? No

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This board meets the **first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM**. You are required to notify your chair if you are going to be absent from a meeting. Only three excused absences are allowed per year.

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**Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission and what specific talents or expertise do you bring if appointed?**

Having served on the Sustainability Advisory Board for the past two years, I've gained a deeper understanding of the Town's sustainability programs and action plan, as well as the important role the advisory board plays in helping Erie lead in the sustainability space. The board's work to inform, educate, and understand the diverse needs of the Erie community is essential to supporting projects that make a meaningful difference for the town. Working closely with Sustainability Division staff and with fellow board members has strengthened my commitment to environmental stewardship, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue supporting the town in its mission.

My husband and I have lived in Erie for nearly 26 years. We've raised our children here and have watched the town grow and evolve. Over those years, I've taken part in a wide range of volunteer opportunities as time and circumstances allowed—PTO officer, Neighborhood Watch, HOA committees, Library Association board member/treasurer, and the Erie Historical Society, among others. I'm approaching my three-year anniversary as a volunteer victims advocate with the Erie Police Department, and I served as chair during the final year of my two-year term on the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Engaging in the community in ways that give back and feel personally meaningful has always been a priority for me. Sustainability, climate impacts and resiliency, and the preservation of natural resources are issues I care deeply about. Supporting the Town of Erie in reaching its environmental and sustainability goals is something I find genuinely rewarding. I would like to continue contributing to the town's adoption of sustainable practices and help weave these values into the fabric of the community. I believe the board's accomplishments, my long-standing connection to Erie, and my desire to make a positive impact position me well to remain an asset to the Sustainability Advisory Board.

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**Have you served on another board/commission in an advisory capacity? If so, please describe the board and what made serving in that capacity a good experience? What were the major concerns or issues?**

As mentioned, I am currently serving on the Sustainability Advisory Board in a two-year term and have been chair for the past year. Working closely with Sustainability Division staff, as well as other town staff and divisions, my fellow SAB members, members of other advisory boards, and Town Council has been a wonderfully positive and collaborative experience. It has allowed me to see issues in a more holistic way and to take into account varying perspectives on how to achieve the town's goals as they relate to all aspects of sustainability. Concerns to address in the coming years will include climate resiliency, water conservation, energy efficiency, and the continued expansion of our waste diversion opportunities. As the Extended Producer Responsibility Program rolls out in 2026, it will bring with it a vital need to understand the impacts and to effectively communicate to residents how it will affect them.

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**Please describe a situation where you were working with a small group and disagreed with the**

I have worked with many small groups personally, professionally, and in volunteer roles. They tend to share similar dynamics that set them apart from larger groups: higher levels of engagement, more collaborative and efficient processes, and better

**direction of the project, what did you do? What was the result?**

communication among members. They are often task-oriented and results-driven. At the same time, because of—or sometimes in spite of—these strengths, they can also be among the most volatile when high engagement and passion for the mission collide with internal disagreement.

While I can think of many small-group situations where conflict arose, I often return to my experience on the Erie Library Association board, which was one of the most rewarding small, mission-driven groups I've worked with. When I joined, there were five members. As time went on, it became our responsibility to determine the future and legacy of the Lorraine David Children's Library in light of its anticipated closure, as the new full-service library would eventually make our services unnecessary. Each of us had strong ideas about what should happen next. Some members had been involved since Lorraine was alive and felt a deep personal connection to the library's origins. Others, without that history, approached the situation through a more economic or strategic lens. As a result, moving forward initially proved difficult.

Out of mutual respect, we decided to reset, step back, and identify our individual priorities. Removing sentiment—just temporarily—from the conversation allowed us to look at those priorities more objectively. From there, we realized we could craft a strategy that addressed nearly all of our goals. Each member felt heard and validated, and we gained a stronger appreciation for one another's perspectives. None of this would have been possible without respectful dialogue and a shared commitment to advancing our mission.

Ultimately, we were able to donate the library's collection and contents to a Lakota Sioux organization in South Dakota, sell the building to the town, and donate the proceeds to the Erie High School Education Foundation to establish a perpetual scholarship in Lorraine David's name—ensuring her legacy. That legacy was further honored through the naming of the children's section in the Erie Community Library. It was a truly gratifying and positive experience.

**If you were appointed, what goals would you like to see accomplished on this board or commission?**

Continued public engagement and outreach on matters of waste diversion, energy efficiency, climate resiliency, and the key topics outlined in the Sustainability Action Plan are priorities I would promote as an advisory board member. I would like to see the Town of Erie develop and maintain a stronger and more collaborative connection with the town's HOA boards and Metro Districts to enhance communication with Erie residents (the majority of whom live in these types of communities), and develop a strategy for effective communication with residents without these organizational constructs. I would also like to see Erie continue to expand its collaboration with Community Fruit Rescue and advance toward Pollinator District Certification. I would like to work toward more structured public engagement through community presentations and workshops to promote resources, rebates, and expertise that help Erie residents adopt more sustainable practices.

**Are you aware of the time commitment, and do you have the personal time to devote to this board or commission?**

I am fully aware of the time commitment and can devote personal time towards being an effective member of the Sustainability Advisory Board.

### **Please read and agree with the following statement:**

I certify that the facts and statements contained in this Board and Commission Application are true and correct.

I further understand that false statements shall be sufficient cause for rejection of this application.

I further certify that I have not been convicted of a felony under the laws of the State of Colorado or in another jurisdiction.

I understand that falsification, omission or misrepresentation will result in a rejection of this application. Any falsification, omission or representation is evidence of perjury in the second degree.

If I become a board or commission member with the Town, this form is valid for the period of my term with the Town and the crime records may be updated periodically at the discretion of the Town.

I understand that this application is considered a public record and subject to the Colorado Open Records Act.

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I Agree

Yes

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All board and commission members must follow the rules and regulations in the Erie Municipal Code as well as the Town's policies related to harassment, anti-violence, and technology use.

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Yes

Acknowledgement Signature



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