



## Meeting Minutes

### Sustainability Advisory Board

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Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

6:30 PM

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#### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

- Karen calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm

#### **2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum**

- Present: *Mackenzie McClaskey, Art Henderlong, Karen Winkler, Rick Kattar, Anne Walsh, Renaldo Grami.*
- Other present: Council Member Hoback and Pesaramelli, Eryka Thorley

#### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

- Moved by Art, seconded by Anne. Approved.

#### **4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Renaldo motions to approve the minutes, seconded by Art. Approved.

#### **5. General Business**

##### A. Council member updates

1. Councilor Hoback shares that Earth Day / Arbor Day was enjoyed by Town Council.
2. Putting together a comprehensive community survey and would like input from the SAB on what to have included, will need that soon as final version will then be approved by council by June 6th. It will be mailed versions, text versions, a push to go to the website and guardrails will be in place to prevent households voting more than once.
3. Anne asks about including a question about what kinds of sustainability efforts people would prefer to see. I.e. do you want methane capture at the landfill or more EV charging stations?
4. **[ACTION]**: Eryka will choose top 5 questions to send over for inclusion in the survey.

##### B. Staff member updates

1. Budget: There is a discrepancy to what we thought was the budget and what was approved for 2025. Due to miscommunication, there is \$3,000 less than we thought. To support this discrepancy, Sustainability staff paid for the mattresses at Clean Up Day rather than splitting the cost with SAB.
  - i. Karen says next month we will do a deeper dive on what budget we have and what is coming up.
2. Sustainability Action Plan timeline has been pushed back to get stakeholder's input. Rick, Mackenzie and Counselor Pesaramelli will take part, and Anne will be an alternate. Results from those meetings will be brought back to the board. Won't bring it to council until the fall.
3. Earth Day / Arbor Day – fantastic! One thousand people estimated to attend.

Would be great to send out a survey to the vendors.

- i. [ACTION]: Karen will build a survey to send out to the vendors, getting input from the tree board.
  - ii. [ACTION]: Reach out to the TAB to have a debrief.
4. Cleanup day was also a success!
- i. Building Materials (Resource Central) - 43
  - ii. Medical Bags – 17
  - iii. Tires (Re-Tyres) – 58
  - iv. Mattresses (Mattress Collection) – 31
  - v. Metal Recycling (EcoCycle) – 202
  - vi. Electronics (3R Technology) – 280
  - vii. Working with Goodwill in the future would be nice since there are still plenty
  - viii. Would be better to have the landfill day be AFTER our cleanup day to try and get as much recycled as possible first.
5. Eryka/TOE just signed contract with USAgain to have a bin for clothes and shoes at our recycling center.
6. Sustainability has co-sponsored a hive with the wellness community, who is getting trained to take care of it.
- C. SAB Chair/Vice Chair Appointments & Vote
1. Anne nominates Karen for Chair, seconded by Rick, approved.
  2. Vice Chair – Art nominates Anne, Rick seconds, approved.
- D. Applicant(s) Review – Vacancy
1. Three applicants, one vacancy. Kathleen, Roxanne, Alan.
  2. Art mentions sending them an email about what we realistically do on the board so that they can understand what they would be expected, i.e. we are not policy makers.
  3. Going to bring the candidates into the June meeting to then vote on the candidates.
    - i. [ACTION]: Karen will send them a clarification to what the board does and if they are still ok with that, invite them to the next June meeting to introduce themselves to the board.
  4. We would like to pursue an option to allow for virtual participation and if not, look at getting an alternate board member added so that we can always make sure to have quorum.
    - i. [ACTION]: Anne will contact the Town Clerk to see if we can get virtual participation so we can update our ordinance to reflect it.
- E. Arbor Day / Earth Day Event Recap
1. Post Event Survey – all covered above.
- F. SAB Goals for 2025 (Idea Backlog)
1. Consolidate Initiatives & Identify Leads
    - i. Because of our lower budget, Karen says we should pick two that we can accomplish and identify leads for them to keep focus on the year and remaining budget. The rest can be moved to next year.
  2. Repair Café
    - i. Library is looking to pursue a repair cafe so we could support that rather than lead it
    - ii. Eryka called out that initially they were going to do a one and done event but was pushing for it to be recurring to build momentum.
  3. Garden Maps

- i. Karen is still looking at getting that mapped out like how we have trees mapped out. Needs to find someone in the town to help build that out and then we could open it up to residents.
  - ii. Friends of Coal Creek (FOCC) has a map for all the certified pollinator gardens; it would be great to link those to that.
  - iii. Communications is developing Erie's Buzzing Gardens to show pollinator gardens, so that will come to us soon.
  - iv. Karen had envisioned what Co-Create is now doing, which is a garden tour to show off the gardens in Erie.
4. Pollinator Support:
- i. [ACTION]: Mackenzie will bring to June meeting an idea of what kind of budget we might need for this year and next for Pollinator District efforts.
  - ii. May 18<sup>th</sup> Rotary Club and FOCC will be doing a planting at Thomas Reservoir.
  - iii. Mackenzie sent the rubric that the Butterfly Pavilion uses to score to SAB, TAB and OSTAB. Next step there is to identify individuals, likely town staff, who could define what level we are currently at so we can find opportunities for improvement.
  - iv. Mackenzie reached out to Ben Hemphill on Planning Commission as well, has not heard back.
  - v. How much does a councilor have budget wise to help support things like this? Council does not have budget that Hoback is aware of, usually it's tied to town buckets or board accounts.
  - vi. June 28<sup>th</sup> Mackenzie will be doing another Bee Hotel workshop at the library.
    - 1. Do we want to include this event in our newsletter? Yes.
    - 2. Does SAB want to buy half the bee hotels? Halving the cost with the library programming brings the total cost per attendee to the level they prefer for their events and Mackenzie was going to foot that bill if needed. Given the recent budget discrepancy, Mackenzie will cover that cost.
  - vii. Do we want to push people to certify their pollinator garden with Friends of Coal Creek in our next newsletter? Yes.
  - viii. Additionally, for the newsletter, does the following sound good?  
 "Did you know? Butterflies taste with their feet! When they land on a plant, special sensors help them decide if it's the right place to lay their eggs.

But when we use pesticides, we leave behind chemicals that can confuse or harm these sensitive pollinators—causing them to avoid plants that would otherwise be perfect for the next generation of butterflies.

 Go pesticide-free and give butterflies a safe place to land, taste, and thrive."

- 5. Sod & Dirt Recycling
  - i. Tabled for now since there are no actions to take on it.
- 6. No Idle Zones
  - i. Art talked to the Mayor about it – His friend is superintendent in SVVSD and looking to get people together to put those signs up.

- ii. Getting the kids educated via Eco-Cycle can help get parents to stop idling during pickup.
- 7. Ride Share & Transportation
  - i. Tabled for now.
  - ii. We are getting Via to Erie so we might as well ask them if they would be open to providing in this to our community.
  - iii. [ACTION]: Mackenzie will reach out to them.
- G. Community Surveys/Sustainability Action Plan/Engagement
  - 1. SAB Booths: Erie Town Fair – 5/17/25 & Erie Co-Create Garden Tour –6/29/25
    - i. We cannot and are not going to do the community survey, but by engaging with the public we can still report to Town Council our findings.
    - ii. [ACTION]: Karen will share a checklist for us all to volunteer to help table Sustainability Staff at these events.
- H. SAB Ordinance Revisions
  - 1. Already discussed.
- I. Additional Public Engagements (Farmer’s Markets, Biscuit Day, etc.)
  - 1. Already discussed.
- J. Board member updates
  - 1. None.

**6. Adjournment**

- Adjourned at 8:17pm. Next regular in person meeting: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.

