



Meeting Minutes

Sustainability Advisory Board

Wednesday, April 2nd

6:30 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order

- Justin called to order at 6:30pm.

2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

- Present: *Justin Benore, Mackenzie McClaskey, Art Henderlong, Karen Winkler, Renaldo Grami*
- Absent: *Rick Kattar, Anne Walsh*

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Art motions to approve agenda, seconded by Karen. Approved.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Karen motions to approve minutes, seconded by Art, approved.

5. General Business

A. Council member updates

- a. Councilor Hoback says nothing of note to report from the council to the Sustainability Board except that a lot of the members will be at Arbor Day / Earth Day.

B. Staff member updates

- a. Arbor/Earth Day event updates:
 - i. Karen can update here but please reach out if there are any questions or additional ways that Eryka/sustainability can support. Emma, Caleb and Eryka will be there to support the event.
- b. Solar Switch Together program:
 - i. First volunteer training happening this evening. Second on the 8th.
 - ii. Mailers will go out to all Erie residents starting on April 9th.
 - iii. This program is expected to save the average household \$5,135 on their solar array.
 - iv. Switch Together will have a booth at Arbor/Earth Day.
- c. Compost Giveaway Event this Saturday – 8-12:00 pm. Up to two free wheelbarrow loads per resident. It's at the Erie Recycling Center off Briggs Street.
- d. Waterwise Landscape Ordinance in final draft review with staff before it will be shared with the Town Attorney and then brought to the development community for feedback. Planning to share with Council in July or August.
- e. EV Charge Ahead grant related update:
 - i. We applied for supporting funds through Xcel for the four locations (Schofield, LAWSC, Town Hall, Town Hall Church Lot). Xcel is providing up to \$80 million in funding across Colorado. It will be available on a first come, first served basis with up to 1\$ million total per applicant.
- f. Clean Up Day event May 3rd 8-2:00 pm
 - i. Volunteers are appreciated. If folks could meet at LAWSC at 7:30 am, that's appreciated. Shifts are great with 2 SAB members per shift.
 1. Art and Karen can join first half. Jason from TAB says he could get volunteers for that as well. Mackenzie can join after 10:30.
 2. Mackenzie can make and bring dog treats.

- g. Climate and Sustainability Action Plan:
 - i. Finalizing a survey that will cover both sustainability related questions for residents as well as Resilience Action Plan focus areas.
 - h. Soon will be purchasing the last recycling can bins for Town of Erie facilities. The goal was to have every appropriate TOE trash cans paired with a recycling can by 2026. We'll hit that goal with this last purchase. All future public areas are planned for both trash and recycling bins moving forward.
 - i. State legislation update – HB25-1040 was passed and signed by Governor Polis. This bill includes nuclear energy as a clean energy source in Colorado: <https://tsscolorado.com/polis-signs-law-to-promote-nuclear-energy-development-in-colorado/>
- C. Solitary bee hotel
 - a. Mackenzie proposes getting a bee hotel at the Pollinator Garden by Erie Community Park
 - i. Jason will connect Mackenzie to Kelly, the town horticulturalist
 - b. Mackenzie also proposes a Build a Bee Hotel Workshop(s) supported by SAB.
 - i. Two options are to do it through the library programming, at which point the library covers the cost of the materials, or to do it as an individual and the library would promote the event since SAB is a partner.
 - ii. Justin moves to approve Mackenzie pursuing a library program, second by Karen. Approved.
 - iii. Can be promoted at Earth Day / Arbor Day.
- D. SAB Corner – newsletter contribution for May 2025
 - a. SAB Updates to share: Bee Hotel Info for the above program.
 - b. Promote webinars with resource central again – pick one later in May or June similar to how we did in the April one.
 - c. Suggested fun fact: “Not all pollinators are insects! In some parts of the world, lemurs, lizards, and even possums help pollinate plants. The black-and-white ruffed lemur is the world’s largest pollinator! Here in Erie, you might spot bats or hummingbirds working their pollination magic. These creatures are essential to our local ecosystems. **Plant native flowers, create wildlife-friendly spaces, and reduce pesticide use** to help all types of pollinators thrive.”
 - d. **[ACTION]**: Mackenzie to send all this to Eryka and Emma.
- E. Sustainability Advisory Board Goals - Idea Backlog Volunteers
 - a. Pollinator Support
 - i. Mackenzie met with Jason Shimmel from TAB and Dave Tazik from OSTAB as well as Casey Lyons, founder of Friends of Coal Creek. We have lots of support from these groups and it might make sense to make either a sub-committee or a steering committee.
 - ii. Jason is going to bring this up with Councilor O'Connor at their next meeting to see if we could get some kind of ordinance going for pollinator support.
 - iii. Dave invited Mackenzie to join the next OSTAB meeting on April 14th and Luke Bolinger (Parks and Rec Director) will be there and is interested to learn more.
 - iv. Casey Lyons is on the steering committee for Lafayette’s Pollinator District efforts and has a lot of experience in this area and will be an amazing resource for us.
 - v. Also met with Amy today regarding running pollinator surveys. There are typically two ways to do them in any given garden: one is to do specific, repeatable observations with the aim of seeing how diversity and density changes over time, which is good to do around areas that are being developed. The other is to do it as a community science project using apps like iNaturalist. It gets people involved and has a knowledge spreading effect, but you can’t draw as many conclusions from the data as you otherwise would using the other method. There’s more training to be done but for now seems doable.
 - vi. NFCs (Near-Field Communication) - little discs about the size and cost of a quarter and when an unlocked smartphone is touched to it can bring you to a webpage (more magical version of a QR code). They can do other things, but we could use them to make a scavenger hunt of sorts with the pollinator gardens

around town to gamify sharing of pollinator knowledge or otherwise get community engagement. We could also use them at Earth Day / Arbor Day to quickly get people to rebate pages.

- b. Repair Café
 - i. Renaldo's school says they don't really do that kind of program.
 - ii. Makerspace, now rebranded to "Co-Create Erie" is looking to add that aspect to their site, so we could probably support and enhance it.
- c. "No idle zone" Signs
 - i. Art wonders if TOE would want to have a town logo branded sign around town but otherwise no updates.
 - ii. **ACTION**: Art will ask Eryka where the sustainability staff stand on that.
 - iii. Art talks about how in Indiana it was a law to have no idle zones near schools. They started by asking parents if they would want their kids to breathe car exhaust in the classrooms. The HVAC system was pulling in the car exhaust and so it easily became a law to avoid it.
- d. Garden Map
 - i. The town is currently working on a survey to send out to the town so smaller surveys are currently on hold so that people don't get survey fatigue.
 - ii. Karen has an email ready to go just to reach the Erie people we know purchased Garden in a Box (from the Town rebate information). She thought the town would need to host the form itself and it would be great to get out before the gardens start to bloom. Friends of Coal Creek mapping could be good to harness for that. Karen envisions the map having a layer of Town owned gardens and another layer for residential or business gardens. Would be nice to have some kind of form ready for Earth Day / Arbor Day.
 - iii. Pollinator gardens from Garden in a Box are completely sold out because people want to support pollinators, which is great.
 - iv. The Co-Create Erie Garden Tour was mentioned as a good place to reach out to.
 - 1. They are looking for people to both be part of the garden tour and for people to buy tickets to go on it. They are looking for people within their 5-mile radius but it's a very large radius, so it includes most of Erie.
 - 2. Lafayette and Boulder also have garden tours.
- e. Sod & Dirt recycling
 - i. No updates from Justin.
- f. Recycling Transport
 - i. Form creation is on hold same as garden map survey mentioned before; would be great to get it added somewhere so we can allow people at Earth Day / Arbor Day to partake if they want.
- F. Town Council biennial presentation recap
 - a. Mackenzie shares it went well; however, we had a lot of initiatives to cover, and it probably would have been better to give more context for the new council members. There were no questions to field.
- G. Sustainability Advisory Board Ordinance update
 - a. SAB Ordinance is going to council next Tuesday the 8th.
 - b. Questions about confirming if our changes will be included in that edition and if we were able to secure language around an alternate member.
- H. Climate and Sustainability Action Plan development update
 - a. Already covered in Staff Member Updates.
- I. Community opportunities to promote HMMF pickup discussion
 - a. Karen talked about taking flyers for the program to try and get them out to the community. Art says he could bring them to the ECC. Councilor Hoback suggests reaching out to Cindy Hickman who runs the Active Adults on Fridays or even giving a presentation at that event.
 - b. Library programming could be a good option since that's the majority of the audience.
 - c. Could also reach out to companies that pick up those with mobility issues.
- J. Arbor Day / Earth Day Event update

- a. TAB Updates
 - i. No specific updates, but things are feeling good with prizes, number of vendors. Councilman O'Connor got the mayor to come so there will be a tree planting.
 - ii. We ended up with one too many trucks and will just make room for them. 5 food trucks plus small ice cream truck from Sweet Cow.
 - iii. Fire inspection verification conversation landed on it not being in our realm of responsibility, only that we know they have a permit, and it is valid past the event date.
 - iv. 3M farms is going to participate but unsure if they are as a vendor (and need a permit) or as an exhibitionist. Jason will reach out to them tomorrow.
 - v. There is a broad map of where things will be but there is still not a final map with granular details on where all the table assignments are, however, that can be done the day before the event when everything is finalized.
 - vi. There is a cap to how many vendors we can have, but only relevant if we need to move indoors and therefore would not have capacity.
 - b. Day of schedule & volunteer assignments
 - i. Mackenzie & Art at SAB table
 - ii. Renaldo is running the kids' activities
 - iii. Karen is a prize runner and general support
 - iv. Justin on his own table
 - v. Rick and Anne aren't available since they are out of town
- K. Community Fruit Rescue Presentation by Melanie Hill
- a. Melanie is the executive director of Community Fruit Rescue (CFR). Their projects are:
 - i. fruit harvests
 - ii. fruit tree care
 - iii. fruit preservation (new)
 - iv. wildlife coexistence
 - b. In 2024, 50,143 pounds were harvested (which is double their other biggest year in 2021), 396 volunteers, 175 harvest sites, distributed to 20 beneficiary sites. Focus on reducing waste, protecting bears (that come to eat the fallen fruit) and feeding people in need. Started in the City of boulder.
 - c. Process:
 - i. Tree Steward (TS) requests a harvest
 - ii. CFR schedules a harvest
 - iii. TS must have at least 40lbs of fruit to pick
 - iv. Guaranteed harvest donations: for residents, CFR requests \$100 or more to cover costs. The average cost is \$350 (which includes staff time, volunteer time, mileage, harvest leader stipends).
 - d. Anyone can volunteer, they are free and family-friendly, and they can choose the harvest of their choosing which are typically 2 hours long from August to November. They receive up to ¼ of the harvest to take home. Harvest leader volunteers receive training to run each harvest from start to finish and CFR provides equipment.
 - e. Fruit is sorted on-site into human-grade, animal-grade and compost. ½ of the human-grade is donated to local food security, ¼ to the tree steward (if they want it) and animal-grade goes to animal sanctuaries.
 - f. They are not able to haul the compost off site so they are reaching out to Eco-cycle to see if they would want to partner with them. Wompost is the paid hauler for compost here, and Waste Connections provides compost to their services.
 - g. They have donated fruit to Community Food Share, Boulder Food Rescue, Longmont Food Rescue, Boulder County Fruit & Veg Program and are expanding into other food insecure individuals & families in the communities. There With Care was suggested as well as marathons since they give out fruit to the runners. Sister Carmen is here in Erie, and they are looking at working with them, though they can only take about 500 pounds a week. CFR is really trying to get locally harvested fruit to the people in that area. They are not restricted by county.
 - h. Harvest leaders determine how many harvests they can do so they are limited by that.

They had 21 leaders in 2024.

- i. Jason asks if TS can self-harvest and bring it to them if they don't meet the requirement. Melanie says they usually just direct them to where they can bring it.
 - j. Expanding to Erie, they would need
 - i. funding to cover harvest costs
 - ii. outreach assistance to tree stewards and volunteers
 - iii. 1-2 local harvest leader volunteers
 - iv. Space to store equipment & potentially fruit during the season (temporarily, maybe up to 2 days but as soon as they can so it stays fresh)
 - v. Partnerships with local beneficiary sites
 - k. Could put outreach for them on the town volunteer page
 - l. melanie@fruitrescue.org
 - m. They usually harvest apples, sometimes pears; peaches, apricots and grapes have been harvested. No crab apples. Jason mentions Platteville makes compost so they might be able to help with the large-scale compost problem, though they are a bit far.
 - n. They also host workshops for tree care for the tree stewards and they are done mostly at Benevolence Orchard and Gardens.
- L. New SAB Chair election
- a. Justin has started a business that puts him in a position of conflict of interest and will need to step down and we will miss him.
 - b. Karen will be interim chair, but not sure she has capacity to do it past the next meeting. Justin shared that the majority of the work is putting together the agenda which is just copy and paste.
- M. Board member updates
- a. None

6. Adjournment

- Adjournment at 8:44pm with the next meeting. May 7th.

