



## Meeting Minutes

### Sustainability Advisory Board

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Wednesday, January 15, 2025

6:30 PM

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

- Justin calls to order at 6:31pm.

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

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

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

- Art moves to approve, seconded by Anne. Approved.

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

- Mackenzie moves to approve, seconded by Justin. Approved.

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

##### A. Council member updates

- a. Had first council meeting with new council last night, sworn in. Nothing to report.
- b. Don't know advisory board assignments for the term yet.

##### B. Staff member updates

- a. Emma is working hard on a community wide hauler. Will be going to the council retreat this weekend, stay tuned for more. Getting input from local organizations like Front Range Waste Diversion and Eco-Cycle for strategic waste diversion. Putting out a new RFP (request for proposal).
- b. Matched with CU Boulder Capstone team through masters of the environment program, Emma will be leading that. Will be building a community resilience action plan for the Town of Erie.
- c. Dylan reports that rebates have been reset and added to. Lots of rebates to speak of: [Energy Efficiency Rebates](#) and [Water Efficiency Rebates](#).
- d. Dylan also got Boulder County Sustainability confirmation. We applied for just over 30k for the Climate and Sustainability Action plan. That plan is going to Town Council on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.
- e. We also have a large landscape conversion project at the Leon A. Wurl Service Center. 24k square feet of landscape conversion, received two grants to support that (one from state, one from federal government). Getting a design in the next few weeks to remove some turf.
- f. Water Wise Landscape Ordinance through the accelerator grant that Dylan is leading. Have a rough draft that is getting edits from town staff before bringing to other stakeholders and then council.
- g. Recycling facility - Added food waste pickup and mixed metal recycling. Caleb and Eryka met with the boy scout troop in Erie that does the Christmas tree pickup every year; Melissa Haverin is one of their troop leaders. Brainstormed how to get them involved in other efforts like leaf collection in the fall or compost delivery in the spring.
- h. Streetlight update: working on a maintenance contract for the lights.
- i. We were awarded the Charge Ahead grant for 13 charging ports to be installed in 2025.

- The goal was to have 25 ports by 2025 but will have 35 ports.
- j. Eco-cycle Green Star Schools program will be able to start its launch and onboard schools to the program!
  - k. Following SAB lead, the Sustainability and Water Conservation Division is putting \$4,000 each semester towards water specific programming with Eco-Cycle.
  - l. Legislative session began on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Heard about the state's aggressive greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
  - m. [House Bill 25-1006 for School District Solar Garden Lease Term](#) - Allow school district to lease their property for longer amounts of time, opening opportunities for solar farms or low-income housing.
  - n. Rick comments on how Eryka is so energized and amazing, which she totally is.
- C. Sustainability Advisory Board Goals - Idea Backlog Volunteers
- a. Pollinator Support
    - i. Mackenzie wants to pursue the town becoming a Certified Pollinator District through the Butterfly Pavilion. We could still pursue becoming a Bee City, which we have discussed in the past, but this would involve more people of the town in what Mackenzie perceives as a more sustainable and holistic approach. It also would give us more direct data to show the progress we are making year over year.
    - ii. It's a certification that would need to be renewed every 5 years.
    - iii. Current proposal is to get groups with natural buy-in on board like the Tree Advisory Board and the Open Space & Trail Advisory Boards. Maybe in a few months move to the Town Council to ask for a resolution on getting a pollinator certification.
    - iv. Karen comments about Weld & BOCO Master Gardeners being a good group to involve. Art says Audubon Society, Rockies chapter and Habitat Heroes, Resource Central's Garden in a Box program as they could tell us where in Erie they have put in pollinator gardens.
    - v. Rules for maintaining the certification – would need to find out more.
  - b. Ride share and transportation
    - i. No progress but Mackenzie says she did build an entire web app today in 5 minutes without writing any code. ChatGPT was largely involved. So, getting this complete is not going to be as much effort as first anticipated.
  - c. Large EV charging area
    - i. Work with Open Space & Trails to see if we could get traction. Justin is on the schedule to discuss with them
    - ii. Dark Sky Colorado – light pollution.
    - iii. Sod disposal
    - iv. Will have more updates next meeting as it's in early February.
    - v. Eryka comments that this might be more aligned with the economic development team since it's such a complex space.
    - vi. Replace this effort with Sod and Dirt recycling.
  - d. Eco-Garden Tour
    - i. Karen has no updates since efforts have been focused on earth day.
    - ii. First wants to locate the town pollinator gardens.
    - iii. Solicit people through newsletter to get locations of current residents with the Garden in a Box pollinator garden.
    - iv. **Action**: Eryka will ask Dylan to reach out to Resource to see if we could get a list to start building out that garden map.
- D. Repair cafe concept: <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/>
- a. A repair café is where people can bring any item that needs repairing to get help from volunteers that would help avoid the throwaway culture.
  - b. We would need to find a café or other space to let us coordinate events with them for people to bring items. We would then need to market it and see what kind of traction we would get.
  - c. Makerspace is in the works but seemed daunted by the red tape.

- d. Art mentions Boulder has a U-Fix-It workshops. Rick asks about trade schools in the area that we could partner with. Renaldo's school has done that, not sure how it works.
  - e. **Action:** Renaldo to investigate at his school and find out more about how that works.
  - f. Justin asks if we are limited to non-profit because we are a government entity.
  - g. Eryka says the Repair Café model is specifically for connecting volunteers.
  - h. Anne notices there are ones in Longmont and Boulder so we could reach out to them.
  - i. **Action:** Anne with reach out to the Longmont and Boulder Repair Cafés.
- E. Arbor Day / Earth Day Event Coordination and Funding (Karen and Art)
- a. Karen reports that we have been approved for the date (April 26<sup>th</sup>). Reached out to 30-40 vendors that have participated in the past to let them know the application is open.
  - b. Going to try to stick to around 80 vendors to invite, knowing that not all of them will be able to make it. Next week going to reach out to those that submitted an interest form but never applied.
  - c. The collaboration is between the TAB, SAB, and Town Staff.
  - d. Art explains that we will need to be there for setup and tear down and the vast majority is helping vendors and exhibitors to their locations based on the map.
  - e. Mackenzie volunteers to be the Zero Waste Lead. This will likely be setting up the waste stations.
  - f. Next meeting is due 60 days from the event, so early February. This is the 27<sup>th</sup> annual event. Art wagers that it's been about 8 years that SAB has been involved, but Eryka says it's mainly led by TAB as it's part of their requirements.
  - g. Idea proposed to start having meetings specific to this event, so the discussion doesn't impact our topics to a normal meeting.
  - h. **Action:** Mackenzie will start the email chain to share phone numbers.
  - i. Councilman Hoback mentions that "serial phone calls" to spread information constitutes a meeting.
  - j. Renaldo says he will be helping his mom (Claudia, member of TAB) send out the flyers, been talking to some friends and classmates who might want to volunteer.
- F. SAB Corner – newsletter contribution for February 2025
- a. **Action:** Mackenzie will send blurb to Eryka and Emma with a Did You Know fact as well as news about us working on the Earth Day / Arbor Day event.
- G. Sustainability Advisory Board Ordinance update - Town of Erie and Town Attorney status
- a. No specific update. May take a bit with the new council.
- H. Climate and Sustainability Action Plan Request for Proposal and Town Council approval status update
- a. Presentation to council on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- I. Board member updates
- a. Future meeting item will be from Rick on the topic of EPRs
  - b. Justin update: Front Range Regional event on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, Eryka will let Town Clerk know so it can be officially noted.

## **6. Adjournment**

- Adjourned at 8:14pm and next meeting is Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30pm.

