



Meeting Minutes

Sustainability Advisory Board

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

6:30 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order

- Karen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

- Present: *Mackenzie McClaskey, Art Henderlong, Karen Winkler, Kathleen Teal, Renaldo Grami*
 - *Staff - Eryka Thorley*
- Absent: *Rick Kattar, Anne Walsh*

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Karen motions to amend and remove the EPR update since Rick is not in attendance.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Mackenzie motions to approve, Kathleen seconds, approved

5. General Business

A. Council member updates

- a. No updates.

B. Town survey results

- a. Sustainability Action Plan was presented to council last night; survey indicated expanding recycling center operations and more of everything we are already doing. Sustainability is being seen, they like it, and they want more of it, which is very encouraging.
- b. Majority of the respondents for all the questions were asking for more involvement or the same involvement.
- c. 51% had total support of a dedicated, modest tax increase to fund the Town's sustainability program.

C. Staff liaison updates

- a. Brought Sustainability Action Plan to council last night.
- b. 2nd Steering Committee is on Friday. Will be diving more into the equity guide as well as goals.
- c. Solar Switch rooftop solar program has hit capacity and closed. That's the 4th bulk purchase that we have participated in.
- d. Bulk heat pump program has been successful, closes on the 15th.
- e. Resilience action plan will be discussed later tonight. October 7th it is going to council if anyone is available.
- f. Clean-up day is September 13th, this year involves shredding which people are excited about. Discussed with Randy at the landfill both about changing the days of the free landfill day and about bringing awareness to residents about the hard to recycle day, which he will be doing.

D. Pollinator District update

- a. Getting a date for the Bee Harvest Workshop at the Library
- b. Eryka is forwarding my questions to the Storm Water team regarding the rubric

E. Community Fruit Rescue update

- a. We have 5 harvests in Erie either on the schedule or in the process.
 - b. Cindy Hickman is going to do a volunteer blast for the active adults group.
 - c. Karen will bring fliers to the Erie Air Fair and the Clean Up Day.
 - d. Karen connected Melanie with Emma from Coal Creek Meals on Wheels about possibly getting the donation fruits, as well as Dan from the high school for the National Honors Society and other seniors that need volunteer hours. Food bank is on board as well.
 - e. Co-create community could know someone for connecting them to people who could do some canning of the food.
 - f. Getting plugged in the September newsletter as well.
 - g. Eryka asks if we have asked our town forester if we have more town trees that could be part of this program. Conversations have been had between Jason and Tom that could move in that direction. Art mentions that we would have to amend the list to allow fruit-bearing trees since this would allow us to handle them like we couldn't before.
 - h. Fruit trees being an option for the Linear Park project is also on the brain. Councilor Pesaramelli mentions there is a plan at some point to move a train depot from someone's property into that park. He is also going to ask if Harvest of Hope would accept some of the human grade fruit.
 - i. CFR normally doesn't take chokecherries but a few weeks ago they did a chokecherry harvest in Wyoming to help support the Wind River Reservation as it is significant to their culture.
- F. Resiliency Action Plan presentation
[Resiliency Action Plan Presentation.pdf](#)
- a. Sean and Adam are both in the master's program at CU Boulder and have been working alongside Stephany on creating the first resiliency action plan for Erie.
 - b. Quality of life is so high here that resiliency is important to maintain that high quality. Additionally, the recent Comprehensive Survey indicated strong support for sustainability programs.
 - c. Process involved: Review of Town Plans; Review Other City Plans; Vulnerability assessment; Community Partner Interviews; Engagement at Town of Erie Events.
 - d. Major Findings
 - i. Air Quality: regularly exceed ozone levels in Erie. Parts of Erie are in 85th percentile or above for toxic air emissions.
 - ii. Drought: Worsening conditions.
 - iii. Extreme Heat: Temp of Colorado has already increased and is projected to get worse.
 - iv. Flooding: Erie has a low chance of annual flooding, but NOAA reports an increase in that chance by 0-20% by 2050
 - v. Wildfires: Greater likelihood of wildfires by 58% compared to other national towns.
 - vi. Social Vulnerability: Old Town is most vulnerable to environmental risks
 - e. Top Hazards:
 - i. Drought, wildfires & extreme heat
 - f. Top Priorities:
 - i. Ecosystems, Wildlife, Trees, Land Use & Conservation as well as Water Conservation.
 - g. Also interviewed individuals from around the town like staff and councilors.
 - h. Three focus areas:
 - i. Community
 - ii. Land Management
 - iii. Infrastructure
 - i. Important Dates:
 - i. October 7th: Presentation of the draft plan to Town Council
 - ii. October 31st: MENV Symposium
 - iii. November 4th: Presentation of final plan to Town Council
 - j. Pesaramelli asks about how many other towns have a resiliency plan – Adam says there is

variety. Some towns bundle resilience with other mitigation efforts. Every dollar invested in resilience training results in \$5-\$7 or even up to \$13 savings over time.

- k. Eryka mentions the county level has been where resiliency focus has been rather than at town level. There is a resource split between Boulder and Weld County so there's a bit of a disparity.
 - l. Hoback asks if there will be a needs assessment for looking at the perceived hazards and identified priorities. Eryka says we haven't gotten to the granularity that he asks about in this version. The plan is for sustainability staff to take this first level of planning and apply it even further, more granularly, to the town.
- G. Sustainability Action Plan charette debrief and update
- a. Karen will share the notes for everyone to look through.
- H. Fire-wise landscape workshop
- a. Casey from FOCC reached out because he has some grand money leftover and wanted to find a venue. Taking place September 25th at the Erie Community library. [\[link here\]](#)
- I. Board member updates
- a. Prior action items
 - i. [ACTION]: Karen will reach out to TAB about piggybacking off them or otherwise securing the tent, weights and table.
 - 1. We have a combined table for SAB and TAB. We do have a lot of LED lights.
 - 2. Mackenzie made some little seed packets of native wildflower / pollinator seeds collected around Erie to give out at our events. Also asks how people feel about giving out native seed bombs.
 - ii. [ACTION]: Eryka will order more cookies for the Clean-Up Day.
 - 1. They will be ready the Friday before 5:00, Karen will pick them up.
 - b. New updates
 - i. Karen mentions we have had about 8 or 9 submitted community gardens, 5 of them wanted to be considered for the FOCC pollinator habitat certification.
 - ii. Registration has been opened for Erie's first "Women in Leadership Summit: An Evening of Empowerment" on October the 9th at the Erie Community Center.
 - iii. Turf replacement program – design approval deadline is September 8th. Have until October 24th to complete the project and get a walkthrough for approval.
 - iv. Ecotober Fest – we are not doing that event this year, but we are collecting the Halloween Costumes at the ECC. Will be at the mini con in Lafayette. From 1-5 on Saturday October 4th.

6. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 8:03pm, next meeting is on October 1st, 2025, at 6:30pm.

