



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers - City Hall, 3rd Floor
1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: Darla LeClair, Tracey Koach, Donald DeBruyn, Corinne Weis, Heather Gross, John Tillotson

Excused: Douglas Brandt

Staff & Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the December 17, 2024, Environmental Advisory Board meeting.

Donald DeBruyn made a motion to accept the December 17, 2024, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes as discussed, seconded by John Tillotson. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT** – N/A

5. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS: MEMBER UPDATES**

A. **Chairperson - Discussion and Action, if required**

Darla LeClair noted that she had been extremely busy and contemplated stepping down as chairperson. Things have tapered off and she is willing to continue serving as chair but would also be open to having another committee member take over if they had the desire to. Additional discussion occurred resulting in no change to the chairperson's position; but committee members noted that if Darla required assistance, to reach out and they would be willing to assist as best they could.

6. **NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED**

A. Darla LeClair noted that she was contacted by NPR (National Public Radio) regarding our front yard gardening ordinance and the right to garden legislation that was proposed in SB-37 (2025). Director Heckenlaible read a summary of the proposed senate bill.

7. **ONGOING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED**

A. **2024-2025 Winter Educational Series**

March 13, 2025 - What Would You Do? - Keeping Wildlife Wild

April 10, 2025 - Light Pollution and Animal Confusion

Darla LeClair noted that this season's educational series has been a challenge and miscommunication has been a large obstacle to overcome. There will be a change to the April presentation with the Light Pollution and Animal Confusion presentation being delayed to the 2025-26 season and replaced with a presentation overview about the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP). LNRP is a great resource and has partnered with the City in the past.

Darla will confirm both the March and April dates with library staff.

B. EAB City Posted Video Library update

Darla LeClair now has full access to all of the past videos again but put the editing of some of the unfinished videos on pause so she could manager other priorities. She will get back to them as her schedule allows.

8. TREE/FORESTRY/POLLINATOR INITIATIVES

Mike Mathis was not present to speak on these topics but did provide brief written comments to Director Heckenlaible prior to the meeting. Not all items may be applicable or fully addressed.

A. Urban Forestry Grant update

1. Park & Recreation is finalizing details with Lester Library and Koenig Elementary regarding youth forestry programs. They hope to have clear direction by the March meeting.
2. Faith in Place Grant
In partnership with Grace Congressional Church, we were notified that we will be receiving a \$15,000 grant through the Faith in Place program. This will fund a forestry youth apprentice and trees for Washington Park. However, because of changes at the federal level, the grant is indefinitely on hold.

B. Arbor Day Grant update

Park & Recreation has confirmed an Arbor Day event at the Library.

Arbor Day Celebration, Saturday, April 26th from 10 am to 12 pm at the Lester Public Library. All families are welcome.

C. Lake Michigan Bird Observatory Grant update – No update.

D. Paddlers Park update

Park & Recreation staff received positive feedback from the WI DNR Coastal Management program about the City's grant request for improvements. Hopefully, we will be moving forward with this in the fall of 2025.

E. NWWF, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Grant update

This project is temporarily on hold to determine if recently signed Presidential Executive Orders will have any long term funding impacts to this project along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

F. Neshotah Beach Project(s) update

There are a lot of projects proposed within Neshotah Beach park area in 2025.

9. OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED

Corinne Weis stated that she recently attended a program featuring the Wild Ones in the Fox Valley area and provided hand outs to the committee related to “Native Trees Feed Caterpillars that Feed Birds” along with an order form for “2025 Native Plant, Tree & Shrub Sale”.

Heather Gross inquired if the group was planning anything related to Earth Day on April 22nd. As an advisory board, no planning activity has taken place but looking to see if there is a possibility of partnering with other groups. Members were going to reach out to other groups about potential opportunities.

10. SET DATE, TIME, AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

Proposed for Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

Note: Due to City Hall elevator repairs taking place late February through the majority of March, there will most likely be a change of venue. Watch the agenda for the updated location.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 6:23 pm

Corinne Weis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tracey Koach. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: *Matthew R. Heckenlaible*

Public Works Director/City Engineer