

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 14, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Niani Brown, Tim Pritchard, Sarah Richard, Hillery Spearman, Kathleen Turner (virtually), Matthew Worsham

MEMBERS ABSENT: Katherine Arnett, Scott Eardley, Brian Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Faulkner, Felicia Graham, Julie Height, Keith Klein, Meg Maloney, Carolyn Moore, John Musto, Michael Powell, Susan Vincent

OTHERS PRESENT: Walt Hibner – CenterPoint Energy
Leslie King – MVRPC
John Woodman – Solid Waste District
Khalid Kareem – Citizen
DaMarion Spencer – I Love West Dayton
Chaz Amos – I Love West Dayton

Vice Chairperson, Tim Pritchard, called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. and introductions were made. There were no Citizens' Concerns at this time.

Approval of the June 2023 Minutes: Vice Chairperson Tim Pritchard called for a motion to accept the minutes from the June 2023 meeting. Sarah Richard made a motion to accept the minutes. Niani Brown seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted.

Staff Items: Storm Water: Felicia Graham shared that today was the Clean Sweep of the Great Miami in which most of the staff were participating. There were over 100 volunteers and Sugarcreek Packing donated lunches for the volunteers. Next month will be a PFAS presentation.

Sustainability: Meg Maloney shared that Sustainability is finishing up the Heritage Trees and Renewable Natural Gas projects. Meg is working on issuing an RFP for solar at the old Sherwin Williams site. Meg is working on zoning changes for the Heritage Trees and native landscapes projects to provide a guide for homeowners. They are looking for EAB support for these initiatives, possibly a brochure. Tim Pritchard mentioned the Dayton Regional Green "Bring your Green" Challenge, which was just launched. Five Rivers MetroParks is participating and is called the Promise Garden Challenge about rewilding your garden and integrating native plants. The team coordinating the challenge may be able to work on a brochure/guide. The City is working with other large metro areas in the state on "Solar for All" through the Inflation Reduction Act. Making solar power available to communities, especially low-income communities.

Valleycrest: Meg Maloney also shared that remediation is planned to be finished by the end of August. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony, the EPA is encouraging EAB members to attend. More details to come. The City is almost finished with the access road for residents.

Economic Development: Keith Klein shared that they will be asking the City Commission to approve several small contracts with environmental consultants. This is done every couple of years to have a qualified person to handle environmental assessments or asbestos surveys, etc. to help facilitate development projects. Susan Vincent was in attendance to answer any questions on the Flight Line.

Citizens' Concerns: Citizen guests arrived, and they introduced themselves. Mr. Spencer and Mr. Amos are from "I Love West Dayton", a non-profit organization. Their goal is to restore neighborhoods in West Dayton through community clean ups, beautification projects, and community events. Mr. Kareem spoke of the effect the new solar farm will have on his property and life.

Public Health, Dayton and Montgomery County: No update.

Solid Waste District: John Woodman mentioned the next Styrofoam event will happen on July 29th at the Business Solution Center on Cincinnati Street. The next Tire Buy Back event will be Sunday September 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Solid Waste facility. Flyers are available for posting.

Five Rivers MetroParks: Tim Pritchard announced the next session of the Master Recycling Program will start July 26th and run through August 16th. There are four weekly classes teaching citizens to be community experts on recycling and waste management. The Conservation Team has been leading a carbon sequestration study of the park district. They sampled approximately 56 plots and did an ecological assessment as part of the climate change mitigation strategy to better understand the value of Metroparks as in depth as possible. The results should be available in the next couple of months. The Hall Hunger Initiative will host a reception on August 10th at 4:00 p.m. at the Second Street Market. Tony Hall will be giving some brief comments, along with several other speakers, on the importance of promoting local food systems. This will follow the first night market which will be a monthly evening market time at 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be a Small Food and Farm festival on August 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Carriage Hill Farm. August 4th at Riverscape will be First Friday, which will be a waste free event.

University of Dayton: No update.

MVRPC: Leslie King shared that MVRPC is wrapping up the disaster recovery work from the 2019 tornadoes. They are developing a disaster preparedness toolkit for communities across the region. They are reformulating their Community Organizing Against Disasters Group (COAD). A Tree Planting is planned for September 23rd in the Trotwood/Harrison Township area with a free community event to follow. They are still looking for a venue, possibly some place that was in the path of a tornado. MVRPC is partnering with A.B.L.E. on an environmental justice grant for community micro grants. There is also an RFP for the climate pollution reduction grant, which is a four-year, \$1,000,000 grant through the Federal EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Niani Brown has been meeting with members of the community and accessibility is an issue. Information concerning meeting times and places is not being disseminated equitably. After COVID, we need to revisit our methods of communication, work with Public Affairs, and be present at community events.

There being no further business to discuss, Vice Chairperson Tim Pritchard asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Hillery Spearman and seconded by Niani Brown. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.