

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting March 14, 2024

The Environmental Advisory Board held a meeting on this date at 4:00 p.m. at 405 6th Street, Room# 404, Sioux City, Iowa in which the following items were discussed:

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u>	<u>GUESTS/PUBLIC</u>
Grace Perrin	Alex Johnson	Estefani Valdez	Ron, citizen
Ryan Rozeboom			
Corinne Erickson			
Sarah Nelson			
Audrey Anderson			
Danna Sanchez			

CALL TO ORDER

The Environmental Advisory Board was called to order by Grace Perrin, at 4:01 p.m. Meeting minutes from February 8, 2024, were approved with a motion by Sarah Nelson and seconded by Audrey Anderson.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Bird Safe City Presentation: Kari Sandage with Woodbury County Conservation and Marla Kerr with Loess Hills Audubon Society presented information on how to make Sioux City a bird friendly city. Certain criteria must be met to become a bird friendly city: 1) Improve bird habitat 2) Address threats to birds 3) Engage people 4) Promote sustainability. The goal is to save the birds. Bird watching is a very popular pastime. By protecting birds, we are protecting other species as well. This would promote tourism and help the city financially. Bird watchers like to travel to see different species of birds. Currently, in the state of Iowa, there are no bird friendly cities west of Des Moines.

The leading causes of human-related threats to birds are cats, collisions with building glass, and collisions with vehicles. Kari discussed different ways we can make Sioux City a bird friendly city. 1) Lights out – Turning off lights during peak migration periods, especially downtown businesses. Shield exterior lighting downward to prevent unnecessary upward light. 2) Plant native – Use native plants in city parks, encourage citizens to plant them in their yards and decrease the use of pesticides. 3) Educate and celebrate – Keep cats indoors, promote bird watching, increase awareness, and celebrate Sioux City as a bird friendly city. World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated the 2nd Saturday in May.

A letter of support from the mayor or a council member is the final step needed to submit the application. The group suggested speaking to councilman O'Kane.

Earth Day Proclamation: Grace will attend the council meeting on Monday, April 15th to accept the Earth Day Proclamation and speak about some of the upcoming EAB events.

2024 Events: The group discussed the schedule for the upcoming Multicultural Fair. The EAB is not signed up for the Pride Event or ArtSplash due to lack of participation. Grace will forward the sign-up sheet to everyone again. The group discussed ArtSplash and the possibility of signing up for one day versus two days. Everyone is encouraged to think about different craft ideas for the event.

Tiny Trees Project Planning: The group agrees that the pickup location should be the Expo Center. This will be a one-day event. Citizens will sign up on a Google form and select the species they want. They will have 3-5 species to choose from. The group is discussing splitting

the budget in half to have a spring and fall event and using the Arbor Day Foundation trees this fall and DNR saplings in the spring of 2025. This program can be promoted on Siouxland Public Radio and Around Siouxland. A QR code would also be a convenient way for citizens to access the sign-up sheet.

Comments from Staff & Board Members-Sarah thinks that the EAB should have t-shirts to wear at outdoor events instead of the polos. Sarah also shares that it would be beneficial to arrange a tour of the Goodwill and receive more information on recycling clothes.

Board members have received complaints about light pollution and are wondering who to contact about this.

A question was brought up regarding the roundabout and what will be placed in the middle. Estefani will follow up with Engineering and get back to the group.

Grace shared some information regarding the Sunshine Food Pantry. It's a clothing closet and a food pantry. Anyone interested in donating should contact Grace.

City staff will be at the April 11th meeting to present information about the WWTP Improvements Project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. with a motion by Ryan Rozeboom seconded by Audrey Anderson, all voting aye.

Recorded by Estefani Valdez