

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting April 11, 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:

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT	GUESTS/PUBLIC
Grace Perrin	Ryan Rozeboom	Estefani Valdez	Matthew O’Kane
Alex Johnson	Audrey Anderson	Arah Montagne	
Corinne Erickson		Thomas Pingel	
Sarah Nelson		Vicki Baker	
Danna Sanchez			
Sam Dailey			

CALL TO ORDER

The Environmental Advisory Board was called to order by Grace Perrin, at 4:01 p.m.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Presentation: Tom Pingel, Utilities Director and Vicki Baker, Plant Manager presented information to the group regarding the upcoming improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A WWTP has a typical life span of 20 years. The Sioux City WWTP is currently at 45 years. This plant treats 25,000 homes. It serves 3 states and 32 major industrial users. The Sioux City WWTP is similar to the plant in the Denver metro area due to the major industrial users.

It takes 24 months to design a project this large and 3 years for the construction. Phase I will be done in 2030. A phased approach is the most feasible and cost-effective option for this project. The WWTP is in bad condition. Numerous emergency repairs are taking place for the plant to function to the five-year mark. A five-year bandage is unfortunate but shutting down the plant is not an option. Rebuilding on site saves money. It costs 500 million to build on site whereas building at an alternate location would cost 950 million. Tax dollars do not pay for this project, sewer fees do. The end goal is to come out even, not to make money off the citizens.

This project will help the environment, economy, recreation, and revitalization. Over \$20 million will be invested in odor control. Safety issues at the plant will also be fixed. The sulfides at the plant are degrading everything. One example is the AC units. The units are lasting 6 months to 1 year due to the Hydrogen Sulfide. Currently, everything is reactive instead of proactive. All the equipment at the plant is being used. Typically, 80% of the plant should be online and 20% should be on standby. That can’t happen at the plant because something is breaking daily. Phase 3 of this project will not happen unless major changes occur. City council wants to review the rates after Phase 1 of this project. Tours of the WWTP are available if anyone is interested.

Multicultural Fair: Grace attended the Multicultural Fair and shares that everything went well. However, she received negative feedback about the trash cans that were given out. Grace also attended Coffee and Conservation at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. She presented at this event and spoke about the board.

Pride Event: This event will be held on June 1st from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Grace, Audrey, and Alex will be working this event. Councilman O’Kane will also be there to help.

ReEvent: The ReEvent will be held on April 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Attendance is mandatory.

Litter Clean Up Day: The EAB is having a litter clean up day on April 20th. The North High School GSA and The Sierra Club are partnering up with the EAB for this event. The t-shirts that Arah ordered should arrive in time for this event.

Tiny Trees Project: This will be a fall project that will be held at the Expo Center. An email recapping this project will be sent.

Downtown Dumpsters: Arah has received positive feedback on this. The bin at the Tyson Events Center was full as of today and it was all recyclable items.

Comments from Staff & Board Members

Arah shares that Pulaski Park is in the design stage for the drainage issues.

Arah would like to discuss the empty tree boxes along the street and what can be done with them.

Upcoming Meetings: Dr. Hoferer from Briar Cliff University will be talking about light pollution at the May meeting. 5th grade students with Perry Creek Elementary will also be presenting at the May meeting. They will be sharing their project about litter free parks.

Tammi with Goodwill will be presenting information about their recycling programs at the June meeting.

The group welcomes Sam Dailey as the newest board member!

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. with a motion by Grace Perrin seconded by Arah Montagne, all voting aye.

Recorded by Estefani Valdez