

# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

## Regular Meeting May 9, 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:

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>GUESTS/PUBLIC</b>
Grace Perrin	Danna Sanchez	Estefani Valdez	Matthew O’Kane
Alex Johnson		Arah Montagne	Dan Moore
Corinne Erickson			John Byrnes
Sarah Nelson			Lexi McKee-Hemenway
Sam Dailey			Dr. David Hoferer
Ryan Rozeboom			Jason Darrah
			Danny Johnson
			Michael Keeran
			Ms. Oleson, Abram, Cohen, Dakota, Kale, Quinn, and guests

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Environmental Advisory Board was called to order by Arah Montagne at 4:01 p.m. Meeting minutes from March 14, 2024, and April 11, 2024, were approved with a motion by Arah Montagne and seconded by Grace Perrin.

### **REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS**

Litter Free Parks Presentation - The Garbage Squad: Abram, Cohen, Dakota, Kale, and Quinn from Ms. Oleson’s 5th grade class at Perry Creek Elementary School presented information regarding litter free parks. The students have noticed that even though local parks have trash cans present, people still litter. They designed a few trash cans for their school with their slogan “Be the Solution Not the Pollution”. The students would like to see similar containers at city parks to encourage people to throw garbage away in the containers and not on the ground. The proposed parks are: Sertoma Park, Dale Street Park, Bacon Creek Park, Grandview Park, and Riverside Park.

Jason thanked the students for speaking out about this and encouraged them to continue doing so. Dan thanked the students and reiterated that the young ones speak louder than adults. Matthew loves their idea and thoughtful design. He is excited to see this project grow and encouraged the students to keep advocating for it. Park staff would love to help. John suggests starting with one park since city staff will need to monitor the containers. The city will start running the Riverside Miracle League Field. This would be a good option to start with. Ryan encouraged the students to include their class year in the logo.

The last day of school is on May 23rd. Arah, John, and Gill staff will work together to make this happen.

Lights Out Initiative – Dr. Hoferer from Briar Cliff University discussed the effects of light pollution on humans and wildlife. We don’t experience “true dark” anymore. 23% of the world’s land surface is now considered to be light polluted. Artificial lighting affects circadian rhythms, mating processes, and navigation of migrating birds. Up until the last 100 years or so, the stars and moon were reliable points of reference for navigation. Artificial light at night disrupts navigation. The top

human-related threats to birds are cats and building glass. The easiest way to be more bird friendly is to install blinds.

Dr. Hoferer shared some ideas of what we can do to help. Lights at night should not include the blue light frequencies and lights should also be directed downward (this includes parking lot lights). Dr. Hoferer suggested making this part of normal street light maintenance. Most streetlights are owned by MidAmerican Energy but Matthew thinks that we can start with the city owned lights. He also suggested making these recommendations for the viaduct proposal. Another suggestion is to leave half of the lights on, starting with government buildings and businesses. Houston and Philadelphia are cities that have started big Lights Out Initiatives.

Coal in Siouxland – Lexi McKee-Hemenway, Siouxland Cleanup Midam Organizer, shared a few documents with the group regarding coal in Siouxland. MidAmerican Energy Company operates two coal-fired power plants in Siouxland. These plants pollute the air with harmful substances. Lexi will be at the June meeting to give us more information about this topic. Matthew suggested reaching out to Siouxland Community Health Center and Siouxland District Health about this as well.

### **Comments from Staff & Board Members**

The accelerated science classes at North, East, and West Middle School are putting together a symposium to discuss environmental issues. Ryan is making everyone aware ahead of time so we can have plenty of volunteers for the event. A location is needed for approximately 100 students. EAB funds can help cover this cost. Arah can provide the water table to be used as well. Ryan will share more information as it becomes available.

Corinne shares that May 17th is Bike to Work Day.

The Re-Event went well, Arah will have numbers soon. 2.11 tons of litter were collected during the Litter Dash!

Arah recently spoke with the City of Sioux Falls regarding their clean up efforts. They have a weeklong event where they offer one free dump per household. They track this by scanning a photo ID. This event is staffed by city employees.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. with a motion by Grace Perrin seconded by Ryan Rozeboom, all voting aye.

Recorded by Estefani Valdez