

**Environmental Advisory Board**  
**February 26, 2025**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Call to order – 6:36pm

Roll Call

Present: Maria Rotunda, Linda Alison, Jennifer Fugita, Jenni Braun-Palischewski, Holli Arnett, Ben Elmwood, Michael Fitch, Bridger Tomlin (staff)

Virtual – Nathan Christianson

Public – None

Agenda – All Approved

Approval of Minutes – All Approved

Public Comment – None

Old Business

- Debrief of February 20th Front Range Sustainability/Environmental Board Meeting
  - Excited to have council presence at event – Kristine Ireland and Claire Carmelia
  - Takeaways from the event – tree trunk size of plantings should be reviewed; early death of trees is an issue in cities across metro area
  - Desire to create demonstration areas throughout the City of nature-based climate solutions including drought tolerant trees, pollinator gardens, and xeriscape plots
    - Desire to create a certification program for climate-wise landscapes
      - Suggestion to work with master gardeners to create a yard certification program
        - Yard signs seen as a way to encourage neighbors.
      - Board members support this initiative as a way to get residents involved on this topic
      - Create a volunteer program perhaps
      - Maria has seen this done in other cities
    - Bridger to research possible crossover with Parks and Rec
- Rocky Flats
  - Understanding is that Claire wants to look at reforming the stewardship council. Concern is that we are taking our eye off the ball
  - Ben connected with Claire on this at office/coffee hours
  - Questions to resolve/inquiry:
    - What would be the long-term commitment of the Rocky Mountain stewardship council?
      - Past stewardship council all readings from Rocky Flats have been normal except one over the years.

- Who would be in? How many?
- Should Westminster spearhead the council?
- Should there be further exploration of the health effects of plutonium particles?
- Should the state be involved?
  - According to Ben – Getting the impression state is not concerned
- If the council is reformed – which stakeholders should be involved?
- EAB is concerned that new people in the area are not aware of Rocky Flats and the history
- Should there outreach to cities to see if there is still interest?
- EAB would like to table for when Claire comes, as they are still unclear on what Claire is wanting from the EAB

#### New Business

- 2025 Goals
  - Desire to understand City and departments goals and coordinate internally to make sure we are all working on common goals/not duplicating efforts
  - Learn about the City's role and current initiatives and tools to advance nature-based climate solutions. Board would like education on how each department integrates with this topic.
  - Learn from other departments on what their goals are and see if EAB can integrate into nature-based efforts
    - Review of landscaping codes and policies for community and City development
    - Forestry efforts
    - Natural land and park development
    - Efforts to advance biodiversity
  - Desire to further utilize Semper Gardens
    - Linda Alison's family donated land, she would like to see the City utilize the family farmhouse more
  - Desire to create/advance hands-on environmental demonstration and/or community intersection initiative
    - See notes under the above section: "Debrief of February 20th Front Range Sustainability/Environmental Board Meeting" relating to a resident focused program on nature-based solutions
- Resource Resilience Center
  - Bridger brought this up to the EAB – project in initial planning phase
    - Public facing arm of the water treatment plant
    - Planning to understand how this site can be best used to advance education and action on water and natural resource conservation and stewardship
    - Desire for community champions and excitement

#### Immediate next steps

- Parks & Recreation crossover meeting

- Talk to Master Gardner's
- City Council would like to hear biannual updated from EAB
  - Write a letter, highlights
  - Public in person comments at meeting

#### Staff Report

- Finalizing data collection for Sustainability Plan Report 2024 – very resident focused
- CU Students Environment program – working on reviewing/enhancing residents waste and recycling program.
  - May reach out for public engagement opportunities
  - State program could cover cost of recycling for residents

Adjournment 8:07pm

Next Meeting March 26, 2025 at 6:30pm