

Environmental Advisory Board
April 30, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

6:38pm

Roll Call - Present: Maria Rotunda, Linda Alison, Benjamin Elwood, Michael Fitch, Jennifer Fugita, Jenni Braun-Paliszewski, Holli Arnett, Bridger Tomlin (staff)
Virtual – Nathan Christianson
Public - None

Agenda Approval – All Approved

Approval of Minutes from the March 26, 2025 meeting – All Approved

Public Comment - None

City Council Liaison Report

New Business

- Discuss potential of rescheduling Clean Up event
 - Rescheduling to May 24th at 11am
- Debrief tour of City of Westminster Greenhouse – takeaways from tour
 - Plastic weed barrier should be removed and not installed for future landscaping projects. EAB members mentioned looking at HOA's revamping bi-laws and requirements on this.
 - Would like to see if the city code could be updated in regard to this issue.
 - Is cloth based weed barrier okay to use?
 - Discussed benefits/values of the City: Job creation, knowledge transfer, ability to control variables for risk with wholesalers going out of business, promote drought tolerance
 - Members discussed how to start thinking about promoting drought tolerant plants, native plants and sustainability – possibly use Semper Farms as an example
 - One idea was to work with the communications department to help educate and get the word out about native plants, drought tolerant plants and sustainability
 - Ben is interested in seeing the financials of the greenhouse
 - Hope to see the reskin of the older greenhouses soon
 - Curious if the facility is being used to its full potential?
 - Glad to learn that the cities of Wheat Ridge and Northglenn are renting greenhouse space
- Determine speakers/presentations for rest of the year
 - June speaker – Liam Culliane from Open Space to present
 - Potential other speakers/partners:
 - Joe Reale – Open Space Superintendent
 - Butterfly Pavillion
 - Denver Urban Garden
 - Dever Botanical Gardens

- May Meeting: Bridger to present on city solar strategies
- Community Gardens as another topic of interest
- MENV graduate students presenting their summer work in September
- Finalize 2025 goals (relates to following item) - tabled
- Discuss demonstration gardens/nature-based solutions community engagement initiative at Semper Farms/Resource Resilience Center
 - Semper Farms – going to schedule a trip for us EAB to tour. Linda would like to see the property more utilized by the city if possible.
 - Could the EAB have a role in promoting current/new xeriscape or waterwise projects the City is doing? Alternatively, could the EAB support such on private development?
- Front Range Sustainability Board Meeting: May 15, Longmont, 6pm
- Review City Council meeting agenda forecast: No time remaining

Staff Reports or Other Announcements

- Upcoming Events: Arts Week (May 3rd), Summer Block Party (June 6), Bike To Workday (June 25).
- 2026 Budget Planning Requests
- MENV Students: Survey engagement ideas and presentation in September
- Other

Adjournment

8:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

The mission of the Environmental Advisory Board is to: advise City Council and Staff on environmental matters and sustainability. The EAB engages with our community and advocates for collaborative, bold, and scaleable solutions for a clean, vibrant, and resilient Westminster for current and future generations.