

Environmental Advisory Board
August 27, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Maria Rotunda, Linda Alison, Nate Christianson, Michael Fitch, Jennifer Fugita, Jenni Braun-Paliszewski, Benjamin Elwood, Bridger Tomlin (Staff Liaison)

Absent: Holli Arnett

Agenda Approval: Jeni Moved; Linda Seconded; Allq Approved

Approval of Minutes from the July 30, 2025 Meeting: Unanimous approval

Public Comment: None

6:40 p.m.

City Council Liaison Report: None

New Business

Discussion on roles of boards:

- Bridger provided information on what the City Council Liaison’s role is
- EAB expressed desire for more participation and communication from City Council Liaison
- Maria brought up Boulder an example of a board where City Council brings forth items to their board for input/consultation
- Decision voted upon and approved: Table discussion/action until after the election

- Scoping future projects and initiatives
 - Lessons learned from Semper Farms
 - Discussion of “Garden in a Box” storytelling and promotion
 - Brainstorming of projects/initiatives aligned with goals and priorities
- Update on Front Range Sustainability Council Business Meeting (Maria Rotunda)
- Neighborhood Sustainability Program: The Nines HOA project (Bridger Tomlin)
- Westy Fest Tabling
- Review City Council agenda schedule

Semper Farms Debrief:

- For projects in the future, EAB should very clearly write out what members want, potential budget, stakeholders, and specific asks.
- Maria voiced that there was a lack of alignment on what the specific project was; need clear parameters for the project that’s voted upon.
 - Scopes of work should be voted upon and agreed on
- Ben voiced frustration with lack of City Council Liaison connection on this topic; suggested message that’s being sent is that boards do not matter.
- Feeling of a lack of support from the City; lack of system for the EAB to provide their voice to the City and City Council.
- Linda: “If we come up with an idea, what do we do with it?!” Overall sentiment that the EAB should be able to make proposals and would like clarity on how.

Currently EAB doesn't know where to go and how to do it; how to get this into a process?

- Action items: Bridger to chat with City Clerk about avenues/pathways; when was EAB code written and can it be updated? Ask specific questions about EAB on powers and duties

Brainstorming on Residential Focused Outreach:

- Topics: compost, biodiversity/pollinators, plastic pollution
- Promote "Garden in a Box":
 - Methods: Quotes/Testimonials and Photos/Videos of lawns over time
 - Yard Signs for recipients to promote the program
 - Does Resource Central have these signs?
 - Could we make nicer yard signs?
 - Use the sign-shop to get small bits and then put our own content with QR code, etc.
 - Use:
 - Tabling, Website content, share on social media
- Next Steps: Bridger to ask Drew Beckwith, Stephanie Ashmann, and Comms Div.

Update on FRSCB meeting: Maria informed board the group is meeting on 9/12;

Neighborhood Sustainability Program: Bridger provided an update on The Nines HOA treatment of ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer

Westy Fest: members showed interest and there appeared to be sufficient personnel to host a table

Staff Reports or Other Announcements

- Hiring Update
- Grants Update
- September Meeting: Graduate student waste presentation

Adjournment

8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 24, 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.