

**Environmental Advisory Board**  
**January 28, 2026**  
**Meeting Agenda**

Call to Order

**6:30 p.m.**

Roll Call:

Present: Councillor Barajas, Mayor Carmelia, Bridger Tomlin (Staff), Linda Allison, Jennifer Fugita, Maria Rotunda, Rachel O'Connor, Jenni Braun Paliszewski, Nate Christianson

Absent: Ben Elwood

Agenda Approval: Unanimous approval; Jenni Motioned, Nate seconded

Approval of Minutes from the October 29, 2025, meeting: Unanimous approval; Maria motioned, Nate Seconded

Public Comment

**6:40 p.m.**

Michael Fitch (former EAB Member): Shared gratitude for his time on the board

City Council Liaison Report:

- Councillor Barajas is now the primary point of contact for the EAB; Mayor Carmelia is the alternate to the board
- Councillor Barajas explained the selection process that led to him being elected to City Council
- City Council has focused on a Comprehensive Plan amendment to Zerger Elementary School
- Preparing for the Strategic Plan and invited comments from the EAB on any changes or focus areas
- Maria asked Councillor Barajas about how to best integrate and support City Council and communicate with City Council in the best way possible and feel effective in advising; EAB wants to advise in a way that supports strategic priorities and plan.
- Councillor Barajas and Mayor Carmelia reinforced the role the EAB plays in advising City Council and mentioned the idea to have the EAB and other City boards provide a periodic update to the City Council and also encouraged the EAB to participate in public comment. Councillor Barajas mentioned that the EAB could provide a memo for him to share during City Council reports.
- Mayor Carmelia mentioned her experience with the Harvard Graduate Students and their work on environmental and sustainability topics. Mayor gave Bridger permission to share with the EAB

New Business

- Board member introductions and welcome of new member
- Board on-boarding training
  - Bridger to send out information on City onboarding videos when ready
- Overview of Sustainability Office's 2026 work plan and priorities:
  - Neighborhood Sustainability Program is of interest for the EAB to review and provide feedback on once Jacob Garland, Sustainability Associate, has completed his recommendations for review. Pencil in for February or March EAB meeting.

- Bridger requested to send EAB the Sustainability Office's high priorities in a PDF/Word Document. This may influence where the EAB focuses their work.
- Discuss 2026 Board priorities and projects, and consider:
  - "Dark Sky" lighting/light pollution request from Mayor Carmelia
    - EAB to discuss this further in February
    - Rachel is familiar with Dark Sky compliance and is willing to do research and present more to the EAB next week
    - Can advise be provided on the Unified Development Code
  - Ben Elwood's letter to Mayor Carmelia
    - EAB shared appreciation for the ideas and would appreciate further discussion of such before during a formal EAB meeting before sharing information with City Council and the Mayor
  - Open discussion and brainstorming
    - Jennifer: Align with Sustainability Office focus and City Council's Strategic Priorities
    - Linda: EAB should set goals with Councillor Barajas and set goals with Bridger/Sustainability Office and provide report out to City Council
    - Garden in a Box promotion/storytelling could be discussed further
    - Nate: could fiber optic installation be timed with turf conversion or water-wise plantings?
      - Jennifer: would have preferred if the removed turf could be offered to be given back to the resident
    - Linda: Worked on projects in the past like participating in the Sustainability Plan
    - Bridger: Beneficial Electrification Action Plan, Energy Policies/Codes, E-bikeshare placement, etc.
- Interfacing with City Council
  - Jennifer: would prefer to be asked before something occurs, not as it's happening, so provide opinion and advise to inform final decisions
  - Bridger: suggested EAB to follow-up on Councillor Barajas' offer to provide letters/information to City Council during their pre-meetings/reports
  - Maria: Bring ideas for projects/priorities to the next meeting to talk about

#### Staff Reports or Other Announcements

- Hiring update
- Winter-spring events:
  - Earth Day Event, April 25, 2026
  - Linda: When is Semper Farms Garden planting occurring?
- Next Meeting: Neighborhood Sustainability Program presentation, Harvard Students' work, additional work planning

Adjournment

**8:06 p.m.**

Next Meeting: February 25, 2026 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 scalable solutions for a clean, vibrant, and resilient Westminster for current and future generations.