

**City of Portage
Environmental Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2026**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. by Chair David L.

Welcome & Introductions:

Attendance – 7:02 p.m.

Present: David L. (Chair), Wendy (Secretary), Chase, David M, Charley, Tapas, Michael S. (City Liaison), Justin Williams (City) and Dallen Ekola-Labra (YAC Student Rep.).

Absent: None.

Guests: Mary Ann Laurel, Rick Freiman, Terry Tessari, Richard N.

Public Comment Period – 7:06 p.m.

Comments on interest in having EAB discuss and promote Dark Sky International, possibly incorporating sample city codes to evaluate City current guidance.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes -7:08 p.m.

Chair David L. requested motion and approval. Discussion, motion, consent and approval of December meeting minutes.

Presentation –7:09 p.m. Natural mosquito control for backyards.

Mary Ann Laurel - Home grown national park, founder Doug Tallemy, entomologist. Ms. Laurel 's church turned an area of lawn into a pollinator garden and encouraged a Mosquito bucket challenge (flyer).org.

Board Updates and Old Business – 7:20 p.m.

Annual Letter

Presentation to City Council for the EAB annual update went well. Plastic recycling was supported well in the city and endorsed by the City Manager.

Subcommittee Reports – 7:25 p.m.

Events & Activities:

No new events & activities at this time. Begin monthly updates and an annual calendar for sign-ups and information.

Bee City project passed onto the City for further development. David M., Wendy to meet and begin planning for Green –a –thon events. Reserve a table –have banner already.

Survey committee: David L and Justin W.

51 responses are gathered from the QR code YTD. We will sort and decide on topics to address in future meetings/tasks. Subcommittee will review and sort. Possibly add survey question on gas powered equipment.

Website committee:

Chase and Charley: To be implemented as needed by City Web Page Staff. Picture of bench from CM/Justin. What sections are now updated and updated going forward.

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) updates – 7:30 p.m.

Possible NexTrex presentation to YAC 2/9/26 at 5:30 pm.

Forward more information to Dallen & advisors to pursue additional challenge(s) by the YAC this year.

Green a thon date is May 3rd, first Sunday in May 2026. The potential opening date is May 22, 2026, for the new Farmers Market.

New Business – 7:35 p.m.

Year Goals for 2026

Dark Sky International – See attachment sent out by subcommittee Events & Activities.

Plan to review and discuss at the February meeting.

The food waste compost program continues into 2026. Board trip and tour to Hammond Farms, Grand Ledge is planned. RSVP will open to other interested people.

Tour is April 8, 2026, Buses leave from ZSC at 1 pm, arrive back by 6 pm. Regular meeting at 7 pm that day.

Suggestion to meet EOM for 1.5 hrs. Mike and David L. to determine and relay if feasible.

Set Agenda – 7:30 p.m. February 2026

New Business: provide information regarding Dark Sky International.

Mary Ann Laurell – presentation on Mosquito control without pesticides - outcomes.

Updates: all committees

Election of a new Vice Chair.

Motion to adjourn, second, and meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.