

Portage Environmental Board Minutes for Feb. 9, 2022

7:00 Welcome and introductions.

7:14 Meeting called to order.

Members present: Thomas Shaffer, Jerry Kroehn, Justin Gish, Joe Chamberlain, David Lancaster, Jaime Harmon, Grace Freed, Loren Kimeldorf, Chad Oberdoerster.

Minutes of December 8, 2021 approved unanimously.

7:18 Update on Green Initiatives-Board members provided with a summary of all of the city actions towards sustainability along with some annual goals and 3-5 year objectives. Members were asked to digest the document and pose any questions or clarifications prior to the next meeting. Members will send them to Jaime Harmon as soon as possible after the meeting.

7:31 Update on the Urban Bird Treaty. Diedre, who is leading this effort, was absent. Loren K. gave a brief overview of the treaty. There is money in the grant for education and engagement. We will table the topic for further discussion when Diedre is present.

7:37 Webpage update. City is looking to create a separate page to disseminate Portage's actions regarding sustainability and other environmental efforts. This will take a few months to get up and running. Likely will see a product sometime this spring. Board members were asked to take a look at the Environmental Board webpage updates and provide feedback.

7:44 Committee Possibilities

-Youth Advisory Committee will be planning the Green-a-thon that is looking to be celebrated in conjunction with the first farmer's market. What about involving vendors that provide environmental services that help people to reduce their environmental impact? Grace will look into this. Look for opportunities for green job career paths to be presented. Jamie will email Loren about how many spots may be available for potential environmental service providers to set up at the

-Look at creating an event/engagement committee. (Thomas, Joe, Justin, Loren)

-Look at education committee. (Joe will lead.)

-Garlic Mustard Pulls (Joe, Justin, and Jerry) Look at planting native seeds in the spaces where garlic mustard has been pulled, a pull and plant model versus just a pull model. Use this as an opportunity to evaluate the long-term success of planting natives in place of garlic mustard that is pulled. Joe will research collaboration with the seed library. Justin mentioned contacting the Wild Ones (Justin) to see if there is a collaboration opportunity there. Also connect with Master Gardeners (Justin) and people from Extension Services to collaborate with the pulls. Grace will

spread the word about opportunities for high school students to get their requisite volunteer hours.

-Chad will lead the Climate Action Plan and Vulnerability Assessment committee. He drafted an initial letter for a proposal to undertake this planning and assessment. Please read and provide feedback, input, questions, etc. to create a final draft/proposal to city council.

8:34 Meeting Adjourned