

**City of Portage Environmental Board
Minutes for the Meeting on March 8, 2023**

Members present: Justin Gish, Jerry Kroehn, Diedre Courtney, Thomas Schaffer, Joseph Chamberlin, Jaime Harmon (ex officio)

Guests: Annie Pryor (Portage Parks Department), Debbie Fryman (citizen)

7:03 p.m. Meeting called to order

- Thomas Schaffer made motion to start the meeting. Seconded by Justin G. Motion passed unanimously.

7:03 p.m. Welcome and Introduction of Guests

- No guests were present.

7:04 p.m. Public Comment

- No members of the public present to speak.

7:05 p.m. Approval of the February Minutes

- Thomas made motion to accept these minutes. Joe C. seconded. Motion passed.

7:06 p.m. Events

- Garlic Mustard Contest- Annie P. from the Portage Parks Department came to speak about the departments plan to combat invasive species. Annie P. stated that people are getting “garlic mustard fatigue” and a new approach to the annual garlic mustard volunteer days was needed. This new approach is to monetize the pulling of garlic mustard, where cash prizes are awarded for those who pull garlic mustard.
- Wetlands- Annie said the Parks Department will put an exhibition on wetlands in the front of City Hall in August.
- Tree Planting- Jaime H. said that there is a plan to plant a tree for Arbor Day, but no location has yet been set. Thomas S. would like to see the city work more closely with Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

7:35 p.m. Urban Bird Treaty

- Jaime H. provided an intent letter signed by the City of Portage pledging support for the Urban Bird Treaty. Thomas S. wanted to know why Kalamazoo County was not included. Joseph C. stated that he would reach out to Gail Walter for clarification.

7:45 p.m. Renewable Energy

- Diedre C. would like to hear from individuals knowledgeable on new federal government incentives.
- Tabled for discussion at April Meeting.

7:53 p.m. Master Plan Discussion

- A community visioning workshop will be held on March 20th, 530-8p at the Portage Senior Center. Thomas S. encourages the board to attend.

8:09 p.m. Board Member Discussion

- Debbie Fryman arrived at 8:10 on behalf of the Climate Change Working Group and the League of Women Voters and invited the Board to a speaking engagement at the Kalamazoo Public Library. The talk will be centered on Ann Arbor's climate and sustainability plan. The event will be held on March 18, 2023 at 3 p.m.

8:30 p.m. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn made by Joseph C. Seconded by Diedre C. Motion passed.