

Environmental Board Meeting Minutes

5.12.21 Meeting

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Call to Order:

--Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

--Due to COVID 19, all members participated remotely.

--Members Present: Thomas Shaffer, Deirdre Courtney, Chelsea Huber, Lauren McMullan, Joe Chamberlin, Roger Lonoza, Jerry Krohn, Loren Kimeldorf, Grace Freed (Youth Advisory), Assistant City Engineer Jamie Harmon (ex officio)

-Unexcused: Andy Keeler

--Prior meeting minutes approved after adding Jerry's name to the list of those present.

Welcome/Guests:

-No guests

Hearing of citizen environmental concerns/ Joint mosquito meeting update:

-Thomas reports he hasn't had much follow up with the doctors from last meeting.

-Thomas working an informational piece for the website about mosquitos.

-Will be fact-based.

Web Page and Community Outreach Mechanisms:

-Members agreed to at least posting the resolution.

-Members discussed maintaining a widget for a calendar that shows all of our events.

-Discussed the previously-established committee needing to meet again to specify what the board wants to make available to the community via the website.

-Lauren volunteered to draft the topics we want: calendar, invasive species (multiple layers), recycling, local environmental group events, resolution, carbon footprint, mosquitos, native plants in the area for pollinators, and our meeting times.

- Members also liked the idea of having our names, picture, and information about us available to the public.
- Scientific exploratory club
 - Motion to collaborate with the existing group.
 - Approved

Fundraising Update/Open Discussion:

- Any funds go to the City first and then the City sets up an account for us to use.
- Held a discussion about opening an account so we can proceed with sending a letter out to businesses to donate.
 - Loren to draft a letter to send out to businesses.
- Discussion transformed into adding more events such as litter pick-ups in the parks or along roadways.
 - Jerry opposed.

Garlic Mustard Pulls:

- Turnout was substantially better last Saturday after the news article was released seeking volunteers.
- Issue with the website that still lists last years' cancelled dates. Jamie to check on having this removed as it may generate confusion since the dates are the same as this year.
- We did have one person call in and complain that all the pulls were on Sunday.
- Joe has the three gift cards for the giveaway. Will give away at a raffle after the garlic mustard pulls from all participants.
- Be sure email or text Chelsea picture of the garlic mustard pull sign-up sheet.
- Chelsea to email each garlic pull leaders the sheets that go into the yard signs.

Motion to adjourn; approved:

- Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

/s/ Portage Environmental Board