

## City of Portage Environmental Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2022

- 7:09 p.m.** Meeting called to order Welcome and introduction of guests
- Members present:** Justin Gish, Jerry Kroehn, David Lancaster, Loren Kimeldorf, Diedre Courtney
- Portage City Staff Present:** Jaime Harmon
- Guests Present:** Rick Freiman
- 7:10 p.m.** **Public Comment-** Rick F. offered information on where individuals can see where tree cover is missing within a city. That website is [treeequityscore.org](http://treeequityscore.org). Board member Jerry Kroehn suggested that any new tree trimming regulations in the city should be sent to the environmental board for review before it is sent to the public for comment.
- 7:18 p.m.** **Approval of the June Minutes-** June Minutes were approved with a motion by Loren Kimeldorf, seconded by Diedre Courtney, David Lancaster, Justin Gish.
- 7:32 p.m.** **Updates on City of Portage Projects-** Noresco projects are wrapping up across the city. Some projects are waiting on supplies but those will be completed within a reasonable time frame. The first residential development that will be LEED Gold Status has been submitted to the city. Portions of this development will have a green roof. The City of Portage received a grant for the purchase of an electric snowplow.
- 7:37 p.m.** **Possible fall event discussion-** Events tend to be clustered in the spring- Greenathon, Invasive species work. No events have been planned at this time, but members will work up ideas for a fall event to be discussed at the September meeting. David suggested that an event around leaf composting would be a good idea and the board seemed enthused. There was also a suggestion of working to get videos around leaf composting on the social media pages.
- 7:45 p.m.** **Review of 2022 Garlic Mustard Pulls-** Jerry K. suggested that data on volunteer participation should be collected. Jaime Harmon would like to see more leadership from the board leading these events and coordinating with the Friends of the Park and working to get more volunteers at the pulls by contacting service groups and coordinate the dropping off of supplies at the event.
- 8:00 p.m.** **Discussion on Celebrating Arbor Day-** Jerry K. would like to see an Arbor Day event at Celery Flats Park to replace a dying Cherry Tree. Loren K. suggested this

topic should be discussed when the full board is present, and that the board work closely with the current city units that put on the Arbor Day celebrations. Jerry attended a DNR event at the Gourdneck State Game Area and was pleased with the information he learned from speaking with DNR staff and commended the City of Portage for placing and monitoring trash cans on the property.

**8:18 p.m. Board Feedback/Committees-** Board members should bring ideas to the next meeting to form committees. Committee ideas should reflect and subsequently define the board's priorities for the next year. Loren suggested that the committees be functional by the December 2022 meeting. Jerry K. suggested that the board should focus on advising the city council and that motions should not be addressed to individual city departments. Dierde C. asked if the mission of the board will be formally changed from the focus on water quality. Jaime H. responded that this is not necessary and that the board advises the city council on all environmental topics.

**8:29 p.m. Meeting to adjourn-** Loren K called the meeting to adjourn. Deirdre C David L, Jerry K, and Justin G. agreed.