

**City of Portage Environmental Board
Agenda for the Meeting on October 12, 2022**

Members present: Justin Gish, Thomas Shaffer, Loren Kimeldorf, Jerry Kroehn, David Lancaster, Joe Chamberlin, Lauren Tompkins, Jaime Harmon (ex officio)

7:04 p.m. Meeting called to order

- Board began with introductions

7:15 p.m. Public Comment

- No members of the public present to speak

7:16 p.m. Approval of the September Board Minutes

- Minutes will be voted on at the November Meeting. Tech issues did not allow for dispersal of minutes prior to this meeting.

7:21 p.m. Discussion on relevant topics

- Jerry suggested bringing in an expert to talk to the Board about the deer population in Portage.
- Joe and Loren K. suggested that statistics show the risk to Portage residents of hitting a deer is less of an issue than many believe.
- Discussion was held on the viability of increasing hunting of deer at local game areas.
- Board will work to bring in an expert to educate the board on the issue of deer within the city limits.
- Loren suggested that a deer survey might not be welcomed by the city, because the city will not wish to act on the “deer issue”.
- Thomas suggested that more data was needed before the board would make a motion to the city council to act on the “deer issue”. Jerry will put together a presentation to the board on the “deer issue” at the November meeting. This will be done before reaching out to the DNR for a presentation to the Board.

7:45 p.m. Composting Video Discussion

- Tabled until November Meeting

7:46 p.m. Arbor Day Discussion

- The board discussed a week of green events that will begin on Earth Day 2023 and culminate on Arbor Day 2023.
- The board hopes to work to plan events with the Park Board for future green events.
- Jerry withdrew his support for the Urban Bird Treaty work. Thomas made a motion that the board continue this work. The motion passed with support from Joe, Thomas, Loren K., Lauren T., and David.
- Jerry suggested that the board work to educate individuals on keeping their cats indoors to keep those cats from killing birds. This should be done if we really want to help the

birds. Thomas suggested this would be a good educational piece for *The Portager*. Joe suggested that in his experience cats are more dangerous to birds if let out during the day, and this might be best. Jerry suggested also trapping feral cats and sending cats to a city cat pound if cats were found during the day. The board suggested that Jerry reach back out to Gail Walters for further guidance on the cat issue.

- Joe suggested that 2023 event dates should be discussed and planned at the November Meeting.
- Jaime asks that the board stick closer to the agenda and plan the board meeting for the next month during the current months meeting.
- Jerry asks that the Board discuss committee assignments at the next meeting.

8:14 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

- Jerry motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Loren, Thomas, and Joe.