



# ***Environmental Advisory Board***

## **Meeting Agenda**

April 24, 2024 3:00 P.M.

Centennial II HR Conference Room B  
805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
Virtual Attendance through Microsoft Teams

### **Order of Business**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Administrative Action\***

- Approval of March 27, 2024 – Meeting minutes

**III. Information/Updates**

- Connected Communities Presentation ~ 3:30 PM

**IV. Open Discussion**

**V. Action Items\***

- Bylaw amendment – suggested language

**VI. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**

- Cincinnati Futures Commission Report
- Green Cincinnati Plan Tracking Dashboard

**VII. Next Meeting**

- The next EAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 3:00 PM.

**VIII. Adjournment**

*\*Board Action Requested*

**Agenda Packet Materials:**

- Draft meeting minutes from 3/27/24
- Draft Bylaws

# Environmental Advisory Board

## Minutes of March 27, 2024

### **Members Present:**

- **In person:** Dave Schmitt; Julie Shifman; Kylie Johnson; Susan Sprigg; Tanner Yess
- **Virtual:** Andrew Musgrave; Ashlee Dingler; Ashlee Young; Diana Hodge; Ericka Copeland; Rico Blackman

**Members Absent:** Nathan Alley; Savannah Sullivan; Chad Day

**Staff Present:** Oliver Kroner; Amanda Testerman; Kevin Frank

**Meeting:** A meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held on March 27, 2024 at 3:00 PM at Centennial II HR Conference Room B, 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

### **Meeting Agenda:**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Administrative Action\***

- Approval of February 28, 2024 – Meeting minutes

**III. Information/Updates**

- I.** Connected Communities presentation scheduled for next meeting 4/24/24.

**II. Open Discussion**

Board members discussed the following items:

- Bylaws – Discussion of draft by-laws shared prior to the meeting. Draft reflects the items discussed in previous meeting, with a few items suggested by OES:
  - Chair as a voting member
  - Public Comment allowed at beginning of meeting; no prior written notice required; public comment only limited to items of interest to the board in general (not limited to just items on the agenda). Speaking time is limited to 2 minutes.
  - Committees specified within the Bylaws
- Committees – discussed organization of Committees to follow internal structural organization of the Office of Environment and Sustainability: two committees between which the 8 Focus Areas of the Green Cincinnati Plan will be divided.
  - Environment: Natural Environment; Resilience & Climate Adaptation; Zero Waste
  - Sustainability: Buildings & Energy, City Operations, Community Activation, Mobility, Food
- Motion to approve the bylaws as proposed: yes – 10 votes; no – 0 votes [PASSES]

**IV. Action Items\***

- Officer Nominations and Appointments
- Reviewed list of nominations submitted by email for Chair & Vice Chair.
  - Chair: Andrew Musgrave (declined); Savannah Sullivan, Ashlee Young (declined)
  - Vice Chair: Ashlee Dingler (declined); Kylie Johnson; Dave Schmitt
- Motion to elect Savannah Sullivan as Chair

- Yes – 10 votes; no – 0 votes [SAVANNAH SULLIVAN ELECTED AS CHAIR]
- Motion to elect a Vice Chair
  - Kylie Johnson – 8 votes; Dave Schmitt – 2 votes [KYLIE JOHNSON ELECTED AS VICE CHAIR]
- Motion to amend bylaws Article IV. D as follows: A quorum of the Board is ~~at least eight members~~ a majority of the active members of the Board. Any action of the Board requires an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the active members of the Board.
  - Yes – 10 votes; no – 0 votes. [PASSES]
- Board members expressed questions and concerns related to the number of votes required for electing officers as specified in the Bylaws.
  - Kevin Frank will draft options for language to amend bylaws to avoid this issue. This will be shared with Board members for review and will be on the April meeting agenda.

**V. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**

- Grant Updates
  - Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities grant awarded to City of Cincinnati
  - Climate Pollution Reduction Grants
    - Cincinnati applying through OKI for the Cincinnati MSA. Grant focus is on reducing carbon emissions.
- Seeds of Change Grant Program
  - Applications open until 4/30/24.

**VI. Next Meeting**

- Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 3:00 PM
- Meeting will include presentation from CM Harris' Office on Connected Communities
- Meeting will be in-person and virtual – encourage everyone to attend in person if possible.

**VII. Adjournment**

**Suggestions for possible changes to bylaws:**

Article III.

- A. The Board shall elect a Chair, a Vice Chair, and any other officers it deems necessary. Officers shall serve terms of one year, with terms beginning March 1 and ending at the end of February of the following year. Notwithstanding other provisions in these bylaws, the officer selected shall be the one receiving the most votes of the members present.

Article IV.D.

- Proposal #1: A quorum of the Board is a majority of the active members of the Board. Any action of the Board requires an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the ~~active members of the Board~~ members present.
- Proposal #2: A quorum of the Board is a majority of the active members of the Board. Any action of the Board requires an affirmative vote of at least a ~~majority~~ two-thirds of the ~~active members of the Board~~ members present.

Note: Per Article VII, amendments to the bylaws requires a 2/3 vote of the active members of the Board, which means at least 10 votes.

## CONNECTED COMMUNITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

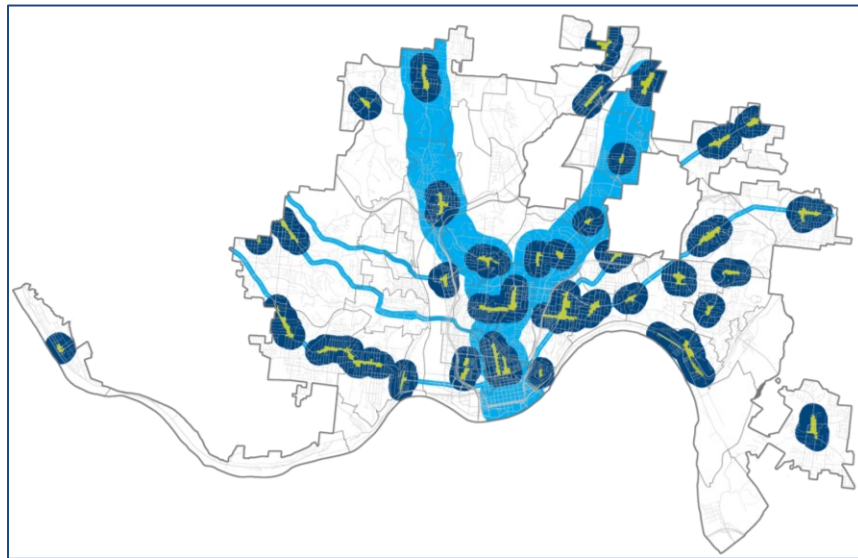
**Background:** Cincinnati, like many cities, has suffered from decades of discriminatory zoning that has left our city segregated, unsustainable, and now increasingly unaffordable. We are growing for the first time in decades, but lag behind peer cities significantly in permitting of new housing<sup>1</sup>. To have the vibrant, growing Cincinnati that benefits all our residents, we must have a bold and intentional vision for targeting new housing and increased density around our transit corridors and existing centers of activity. Connected Communities takes a people-centered approach to growth and promotes priorities of the Green Cincinnati Plan<sup>2</sup> (2023).

### Objectives:

- Reverse the segregation resulting from discriminatory and exclusionary zoning.
- Increase housing density to support walkable community amenities and combat food deserts.
- Align our zoning with recent investments in METRO to support alternative transportation options.
- Reduce the impact of excessive surface parking around the city.
- Promote human-scale design, tree-planting, and greener landscaping.
- Make it easier to rehab existing vacant housing stock by allowing for more flexible housing typologies.

**Proposal:** Update land use and zoning in the targeted areas.

- ✓ Reduction or Elimination of Parking Minimums
- ✓ Legalization of “Missing Middle” Housing, Including Rowhomes
- ✓ Reassess Density and Height Regulations
- ✓ Improved, Faster Administrative Processes
- ✓ Better Landscaping and Pedestrian-Oriented Design Standards
- ✓ Other General Code Cleanup



*Map of "Major Corridors" and Neighborhood Business Districts with applicable buffers.*

### Timeline:

April 2024: Legislative Ordinance Released

May 17, 2024: Cincinnati Planning Commission Vote

June 2024: Equitable Growth and Housing Committee and Full Council Vote

<sup>1</sup> Cincinnati Chamber Center for Data and Research State of the Region (2023)

<sup>2</sup> Green Cincinnati Plan, Page 120-121

**More engagement** - <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/341c80f53c764e0abd4199aeeb18b2de/page/Engage/>



# Environmental Advisory Board

April 24, 2024



# Environmental Advisory Board

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## Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Administrative Action
  - a. Approval of March 27, 2024 – Meeting Minutes
3. Information/Updates
  - a. Connected Communities presentation
4. Open Discussion
5. Action Items
  - a. Bylaw Amendment – suggested language
6. Office of Environment and Sustainability Updates
  - a. Cincinnati Futures Commission Report
  - b. Green Cincinnati Plan Tracking Dashboard
7. Adjournment



# Bylaw considerations

Suggestions for possible changes to Bylaws:

- Article III.
  - A. The Board shall elect a Chair, a Vice Chair, and any other officers it deems necessary. Officers shall serve terms of one year, with terms beginning March 1 and ending at the end of February of the following year. Notwithstanding other provisions in these bylaws, the officer selected shall be the one receiving the most votes of the members present.
- Article IV.D.
  - **Proposal #1:** A quorum of the Board is a majority of the active members of the Board. Any action of the Board requires an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the ~~active members of the Board~~ members present.
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Note: Per Article VII, amendments to the bylaws requires a 2/3 vote of the active members of the Board, which means at least 10 votes.





# Futures Commission Report

## Climate Related Items

- RECOMMENDATION: INSTITUTE A FIXED MONTHLY FEE FOR WASTE COLLECTION (APPROXIMATELY \$15.30 PER HOUSEHOLD AND \$7.60 FOR ALICE (ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED) HOUSEHOLDS.
- RECOMMENDATION: REALIZE SAVINGS FROM UTILITY AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSE REDUCTION FROM CINCINNATI SOUTHERN RAILWAY SALE SHOULD BE USED TO SUPPORT OPERATIONAL BUDGET.
- RECOMMENDATION: CREATE A \$100 MILLION SITES FOR GOOD JOBS FUND WITH THE PORT TO IDENTIFY, ACQUIRE, AND INVEST TO IMPROVE SITES WHERE GOOD JOBS CAN LOCATE.
  - Focus on brownfield remediation for siting new job centers





# GCP – Tracking Progress

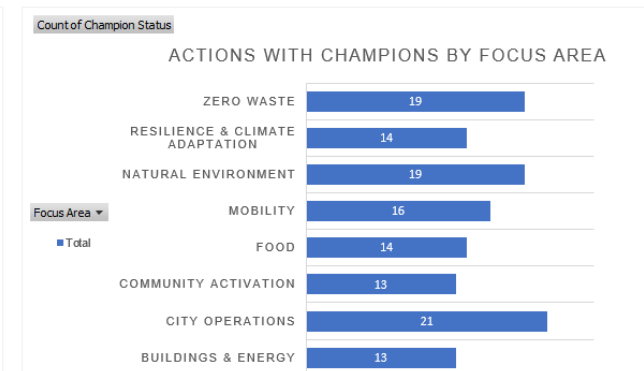
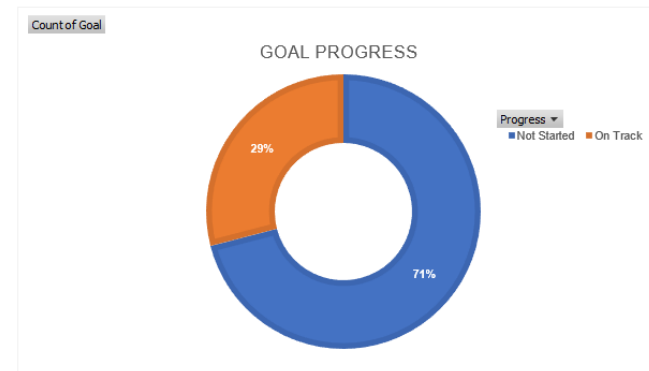
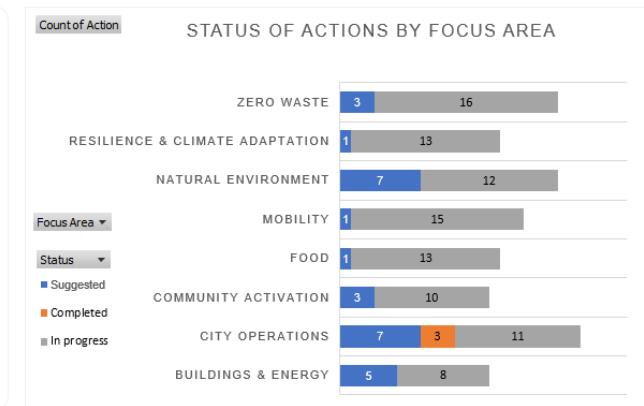
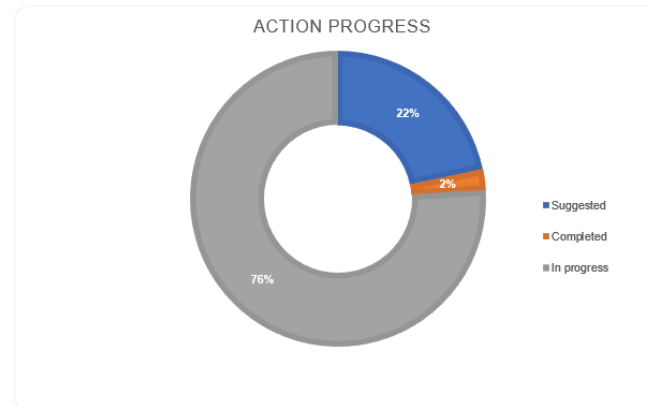
CLIMATEVIEW FOR CINCINNATI 2050 Explore the pathway

## Cincinnati's pathway to net-zero

We have assembled a plan of all the shifts needed to reach our climate goals. Explore it to find out how we can build a greener future together.

Watch intro: Getting Cincinnati to net zero

## Green Cincinnati Plan 2023





# Seeds of Change Mini-Grant Program

- To help communities take steps toward a more sustainable and equitable future
- Accepting applications for projects that range from \$1,000 to \$20,000
- Types of projects that could include but are not limited to: trees, native plants, soil, community gardens, fresh food access points, food waste diversion, home energy efficiency kits, green space improvements, greening parking lots, reflective asphalt sealants, rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs, non-car transportation options, air quality monitors, landslide prevention, flood mitigation, cooling solutions, trash, recycling, or compost containers, and outreach and education materials.
- **Applications due April 30, 2024. Awards announced June 15, 2024**
- <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/green-cincinnati-plan/seeds-of-change-grant-program/soc-final-rfp/>





# Next Meeting

- 3PM May 29, 2024