

Environmental Advisory Board

Minutes of November 20, 2024

Members Present:

- **In person:** Andrew Musgrave; Ashlee Young; Kylie Johnson; Susan Sprigg; Van Sullivan
- **Virtual:** Dave Schmitt; Julie Shifman; Nathan Alley; Rico Blackman

Members Absent: Chad Day; Diana Hodge; Erika Copeland; Tanner Yess

Staff Present: Amanda Testerman; Erin Kabel

Meeting: A meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held on November 20, 2024 at 3:00 PM at Centennial II HR Conference Room A, 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. **Public Comment**
- II. **Call to Order at 3:05 PM**
- III. **Administrative Action***
 - Approval of October 30, 2024 – Meeting minutes
- IV. **Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**
- V. **Information/Updates**
 - Outlook after 2024 Election Results
 - EAB Board 2025 Membership Updates & Intentions – Erin Kabel from OES contacted all board members to inform them of their board term, requesting an update on their membership intentions for 2025. This will help us understand which board members want to continue in their term and how many positions need to be filled for next year.
 - Update on EAB Presentation to Climate, Environment, and Infrastructure (CEI) Committee – scheduled for December 3rd at 10 AM in Council Chambers. This meeting is open to the public and will be streamed on Citi Cable.
- VI. **Items for Vote***
 - January and February 2025 Meeting Schedule – per attachment 1
 - Board members voted to accept the proposed meeting schedule for January and February 2025, as seen in attachment 2: Yes – 9 votes; No – 0 votes [PASSES]
 - Bylaw amendment for Board Member Attendance requirements
 - Motion to approve bylaw amendment to add language to Article II, section F: "Every member of the Board is expected to attend a minimum of two-thirds of the meetings of the Board in any calendar year. Any member who fails to meet this minimum requirement will be presumed to have resigned. The Secretary will provide notice to the board member after three absences notifying them of their attendance status." Yes – 8 votes; No – 1 vote [FAILS]
 - Motion to approve bylaw amendment to add language to Article II, section F: "Every member of the Board is expected to attend a minimum of two-thirds of the meetings of the Board in any calendar year. Any member who fails to meet this minimum requirement will be presumed to have resigned. The Secretary will provide notice to the board member after two absences notifying them of their attendance status." Yes – 9 votes; No – 0 votes [PASSES]
- VII. **Presentations**
 - Hillside Trust – Eric Russo: Hillside Trust is a land conservancy organization which protects Hillside in the Cincinnati region – they have 135 acres. The forestry assessment which requires a fee to be paid for land owners based on the feet the property borders along right of way has impacted their

ability to conserve land and maintain these fees. In the past the fees were \$4300 or \$5000 for 2023. In 2024 they anticipate the cost being closer to \$10,000. They have been trying to meet this increased cost with stewardship gifts.

- Hillside Trust has met with Councilmember Owens' office and is requesting that the forestry assessment be abated for environmental or land conservancy groups.

VIII. Open Discussion

- Environment & Sustainability Committees: Board members have discussed GCP priority actions for policy recommendations. The upcoming December and January meetings will be used to further discuss and determine deliverables for the group. Board members requested that they discuss this as a whole, instead of dividing into break-out groups so everyone can be engaged in both committees.

I. Next Meeting

- Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 3:00 PM

II. Adjournment at 4:35 PM