

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Regular Meeting March 13, 2025

The Environmental Advisory Board held a meeting on this date at 4:00 p.m. at 1004 4th Street, Sioux City, Iowa in which the following items were discussed:

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u>	<u>GUESTS/PUBLIC</u>
Sam Dailey	Ryan Rozeboom - unexcused	Estefani Valdez	Gayle Hattan
Sarah Nelson	Corinne Erickson - excused	Arah Montagne	Deb Hattan
Linus Countryman			Ralph Swain
Alex Johnson			
Grace Perrin			
Danna Sanchez			

CALL TO ORDER

The Environmental Advisory Board was called to order by Arah Montagne at 4:02 p.m. Meeting minutes from January 9, 2025, and February 13, 2025, were approved with a motion by Sarah Nelson and seconded by Grace Perrin.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Introduce new board member: The board welcomes Linus Countryman as the newest member. Linus was appointed by Council on March 3, 2025. Linus is involved in the community and tries to do as much as possible despite all the funding that is being stripped away from programs.

Recap February Meeting: The February meeting was held at Hardline/Winnies and had great public attendance. The feedback we received is that people feel more inclined to join the meetings if they are held outside of City Hall. The public shared their input on several environmental concerns. Libby Claeys did a great job with the plant propagation class afterwards. We had a great turnout for this class. The group is encouraged to think of other ideas for classes to host after a meeting.

Saturday in the Park Recycle Bins: We will be lending three downtown recycling containers for this event. Gill donates the containers and the City pays Gill for the gas and time spent collecting the bins. All in favor of this coming out of the EAB budget.

Styrofoam Update: Arah emphasized that our goal is to educate. Linus thinks that distributors could be the ones promoting Styrofoam so we have to find a way to incentivize the businesses. Cisco is a large distributor that runs from Omaha to Sioux Falls and is popular in this area. If we see a business not using Styrofoam we can ask who their vendor is. The board is encouraged to think of design ideas that can be used for handouts, stickers, flyers, and postcards to educate businesses on the use of Styrofoam.

Comments from Staff & Board Members

The Re-Event is coming up quickly and everyone's help is needed for this event to run smoothly. Arah will reach out to various groups to recruit volunteers.

Grace mentioned that the last Multicultural Fair will take place on March 30th. The board is not signed up due to lack of availability.

Sam is working with Brutal Doodles on an art project. There are several pieces of land in town where prairie grasses can be installed. Brutal Doodles can paint a mural next to these pieces of land.

Sarah brought up the Adopt a Storm Drain program. We have the funding for this program we just need to spread the word about it. In years past, students would paint the storm drain and anytime they see litter around it they clean it up. The surrounding neighbors need to approve the design before it's painted to ensure it's not offensive. Linus is on the Alley Art Committee and thinks we would have the support from local artists. We can start by painting the storm drains along Fourth Street to set the example for others to see. Sarah will bring this up during the next Downtown Partners meeting to get this project started.

Estefani started updating the Adopt a Street Program contact list in an effort to have updated information to send out letters for the Litter Dash.

Sarah is organizing an Earth Day clean up event. The event will take place on Saturday, April 19th in the Transit Avenue area. Those unable to make it for Litter Dash are encouraged to attend.

The Pride Event that is held inside the Convention Center will take place June 6th-8th. There is another pride group that hosts an outdoor event but that will not take place this year.

Linus is working with Downtown Partners to have an outdoor art and music event. This would be a good opportunity for the board to have a booth and teach the public about composting.

Comments from Public

Deb asked if it's possible to do the Re-Event more than twice a year. We'd like to host this event more often, but costs are increasing. The production and installation of the skywalk sign increased to \$1,600 this year. Sarah asked about the cost for a digital billboard instead. Linus worked with Downtown Partners in the past to paint the inside windows of businesses to advertise. We can look into doing this in the skywalks for the fall Re-Event. We would need to ask approval from Downtown Partners.

Ralph Swain from the Historic Preservation Commission spoke about ghost signs. The Historic Preservation Commission drafted a revision to the sign ordinance. If ghost signs are not revamped, they will disappear completely. The goal is to find a supporter in the community to restore these signs.

Ralph also brought up the demolition of 625 Douglas Street. The shared beams between 625 and 615 Douglas are shattered. It will take a lot of work to make the space at 615 Douglas available. Ralph suggested they save the head piece of the building that says auditorium. One of the suggestions from the Historic Preservation Commission for the space at 625 Douglas is to expand the food truck area.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m. with a motion by Sarah Montagne seconded by Grace Perrin, all voting aye.

Recorded by Estefani Valdez