

Environmental Advisory Committee
April 18, 2019 at 7:03 pm
Huntington Woods City Hall
Minutes

1. Attendance:

Member	
Julie Petrik	X
Daniel Brooks	Excused
Mari Masalin-Cooper (Secretary)	Excused
Sarah Jo Sautter	X
Bridget McKinley	X
Saulius Mikalonis	Absent
Aaron Retish	X
Ben Falik (Chair)	X
David Egan	X
Student member – vacant	-
Jules Olsman (Commission Liaison)	Absent
Amy Hood (DPW)	X
Amy Sullivan (City Manager)	X
Public Participants:	None

2. Approval of March 2019 Minutes - motion by Bridget and seconded by Sarah Jo to approve as written. Approved unanimously.

3. Recycling Programs

- a. Food compost program – update on sale of compost buckets by Amy H.
 Although no buckets were sold at the rain barrel event, the City has sold 80 containers in the last year including 5 sold during the April half-price sale event. Amy H. said she also informs residents that food waste can be put in yard waste bags. Tringali has been responsive in picking the buckets up. In order to encourage food composting, the EAC will engage in a media campaign. Bridget will contact the Woodward Talk to show them 3 options for food composting. Sarah will show how to compost using yard waste bags, Aaron and David will talk about using a backyard composter and Julie will use the food waste containers. The City will continue the half-price sale into May as part of the media campaign and promote the free compost that is available to residents from SOCRRA.

4. Green Infrastructure:

- a. Climate Mayor's update – no update as Amy S. was at a SEMCOG workshop during the webinar.
- b. Watertown project update – no update from Amy S. as we are waiting for nicer weather to start the rain garden construction.
- c. SEMCOG multi-community grant update – Amy S. gave an update and said the 3 communities had held open houses to get feedback from residents on the concept of a road diet on Coolidge and 11 Mile, GI opportunities along the right of ways of Coolidge and 11 Mile and preferred locations for crosswalks. The consultant is compiling the results and will be providing a report soon.

5. Zoning Ordinance

- a. **Solar ordinance review update** – no update from Aaron. David said he had a friend in Pleasant Ridge that had solar panels. Even during cloudy weather the owners usually had

enough power stored in batteries to stay off the grid. Aaron said that the pushback in HW was aesthetics so asked David to find out where the panels were installed and if there was any pushback from his neighbors.

- b. **Proposed ordinance on application of pesticides and fertilizers** - the EAC would like additional language for the ordinance that makes it clearer what types of applications are prohibited. David said he would look at pesticide containers for suggested language.
- c. **Residential front yard landscaping standard ordinance** - There was discussion on the current language for new home site plan reviews that says the front yard has to be 80% grass or a homeowner could provide an alternative landscaping and maintenance plan for Planning Commission approval. The EAC felt that discouraged the use of native plants so suggested the language be revised to say "A front yard shall be 80% landscaped and the Planning Commission may consider an alternative landscaping plan". This will allow homeowners to plant a traditional grass lawn, use plants other than grass and trees in the front yard. Amy S. will pass the recommendation on to the Planning Commission.

6. **Public Participation** - none

7. **New Business** - none

8. **Committee member remarks**

Bridget asked if we should be recruiting for a new student member? Ben will ask the NHS at the high school if there is interest and Bridget will contact the science teacher at Norup. Unfortunately the Teen Council is out of session so they can't be asked if there is interest. David said the Woodward Talk had an article recently about Ferndale switching to LED street lighting. Amy S. said HW had an estimate around \$60,000 for the conversion and it was a possible Men's Club project.

9. **Next meeting:** Rescheduled to May 23rd

10. **Adjourned** at 8:13 p.m.