

Berkley Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes: 4/18/2023

Attendees:

- Mark Richardson
- Tricia Losey
- Noel Rendleman
- Rebekah Randle
- Stephanie Pandolfi
- Caroline Dicks

6:38pm: Meeting called to order

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of agenda

- a. Tricia: motion to adopt agenda
Caroline: second
Agenda adopted unanimously

III. Approval of March minutes

- a. Rebekah: motion to adopt agenda
Tricia: Second
Minutes approved unanimously

IV. Public comment

- a. Carol Eseman
 - i. Lived in Berkley 27 years
 - ii. Husband runs Detroit Open Dart League (longest open dart league in America) – play at VFW and Warren Commonwealth.
 - iii. Daffodils for Detroit (began in 2010) has been raising money through the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association by selling bulbs at annual luncheons (at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle)
 - iv. The organization planted 2.5 million daffodil bulbs throughout Detroit area, including along boulevards in flood zones, so she’s here to propose a similar idea for Berkley.
 - v. Joel recommended she speak to the Beautification Committee, and Tricia explained the need for fundraising.
 - vi. Tricia spoke with Matt and wants us to focus on green infrastructure for the stormwater plan.
 - 1. We’ll need to raise the money and then the city would get behind us and put the money into the energy revolving fund to finance our next project.
 - 2. Tricia will reach out to Dan Mihaescu (chair of the Beautification Committee) regarding how they do their funding.
- b. Joel Ulferts

- i. DDA is funding the main roads with flowers. How did Detroit decide to do daffodils over another plant? Carol answered that they took the idea from NYC's Central Park project that planted daffodils (sign of hope) after 9/11. He suggested clover, but clover is non-native and while it's short, it has a shallow root system.
- ii. Rebekah can make recommendations of native plant plan based on water, height, bloom time, etc. Most are self-sufficient once you get them planted and they germinate. Rebekah suggested wild strawberry, which is native, in lieu of non-native clover.
- iii. Joel will send Mark the latest data on the Electric Vehicle charging stations at the library (Matt Church didn't pass on those data this month). The EVCSs are an evolving service and things will develop as we move forward (users might begin being charged after a certain amount of time, or ticketing for people who overstay – but decisions on this have not yet been made).
 - 1. Mark suggested making a list of potential concerns and bring them to the city and public safety, but right now we're just taking baby steps.
 - 2. If the fear that people wouldn't use them is not justified because people are flocking to them, then maybe they should start charging. Joel suggested turning them off overnight to prevent people from just parking there.
 - 3. Mark will invite Andy McDoo in to discuss this at next month's meeting.

V. Chair's report

- a. Earth Day activities
 - i. Earth Day event in downtown Royal Oak 9am – 1pm Saturday 4/22/23
 - ii. Mark's commitment is to help publicize the event (he has flyers available for posting).
 - 1. Carol will post at VFW and Durst Lumber and Frank's Liquor Store
 - iii. Lynn Fanelli at Greenfield Presbyterian Church: Sunday 4/23/23 Earth Day event:
 - 1. Screen 30-minute film at 12:15pm
 - 2. Surprise visit and special music by "Climate Elvis" at morning services at 9am and 11am.
 - 3. Online climate events available (sign up and get a link)
 - 4. Saturday, 4/29/23 is virtual climate Bingo via Zoom
- b. Mark sent email to April McCrumb about additional trash and recycling bins at the Berkley Art Bash.
- c. SOCCRA electronic recycling day. SOCCRA will send Mark a list of the rules regarding these events, and that DPW is who we should coordinate with regarding volunteer activities. We need to arrange sign up for volunteers (6-8 total) on May 20th, 9am-1pm at the Rec Center parking lot.
- d. Facebook – Mark was going to meet with Tori about the BEAC Facebook page but she has left. Tricia spoke with Tori and she suggested Mark reset his personal Facebook password.

VI. City Council Liaison Report – Ross Gavin

- a. Ross Gavin not in attendance (he's at the Michigan Municipal League 2-day meeting)

VII. Old Business

- a. Steph distributed the flyer to the high school and put together a schedule for Berkley Days (May 11-14, 2023). So far, nobody has contacted her so now what do we do? We need 22 bodies to cover all of the shifts, and we have nobody outside the committee at this point.
 - i. Caroline spoke to the Berkley Adult Transition program director and said there are probably at least 6 students who would be interested.
 - ii. Caroline will also check with the principal of CASA.
 - iii. Steph will re-contact the high school administrators to recruit volunteers.
 - iv. Joel suggested checking with the local Boy Scouts
 - v. Steph will post volunteer request on Berkley Facebook pages if the schools don't pan out.
 - vi. Deadline to set schedule – May 4th, 2023
- b. Informative lecture series
 - i. Mark thinks the library should have availability for future lectures / workshops
- c. Composting – Ferndale pilot program. Caroline will follow up
- d. Native planting – Tricia reached out to Adam Huttenstein, who owns *Michiganense Natives*, and he's willing to host a native plant sale for us in the fall, either as a stand-alone sale or a fundraiser. Dennis said that he'd forward it to the city attorney, and that unlike what Matt Baumgarten said, as a city committee, we should not need a permit.
 - i. Carol suggested reaching out to Berkley Gardeners to help with this initiative.
- e. Rain barrel sale
 - i. Noel called Claire Dion – Ferndale rain barrel sale coordinator. They had a workshop at the library in June run by one of their committee members (Jim Janowitz, who says he is willing to come here to run the workshop), and they have a rain barrel on permanent display at City Hall. Then they had a way for people to pre-order rain barrels online from Michigan Rain Barrel following the workshop, and someone came and dropped them off and people could just come to City Hall pick them up. The rain barrels were subsidized by a grant from the state.
 - ii. Noel is checking with Up Cycle, which offer much less expensive barrels than Michigan Rain Barrel (\$88 for a 50-gallon barrel that will be delivered to people's home)

VIII. New Business

- a. There have been 2 applicants for the open committee seat. Mark will circulate the resumés to the rest of the group.

IX. Announcements

- a. Michigan Climate Summit Conference in June on Oakland University campus.

- b. Michigan has a 45% goal for recycling, we're currently at 21% (historically we were at 16% so there is some improvement). Mark will look at grant opportunities for community recycling.

X. Adjourn

- a. Tricia: motion to adjourn
Caroline: Second
Motion to adjourn passed unanimously
- b. Meeting adjourned 8:07pm