



CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD
Operations Center - Assembly Room | 305 Williams St. | Hendersonville NC
28792



Thursday, September 16, 2021 – 3:00 PM

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call - *Beth Stang, Chairperson*

2. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

3. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review and approve minutes from August meeting

B. Elections- New Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations of board members for Chair and Vice Chair. Vote to follow nominations -*Beth Stang, Chair person*

C. Monarch Pledge Presentation

Presentation from Connie Knight- <https://www.nwf.org/mayorsmonarchpledge>

D. Nature Connections - Caregivers of Mother Earth

Presentation to be given by Elle Travis

4. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Update on Plastics and Recycling, Working to be Plastic Free update- *Grey Jerigan, Board Member, Katie Breckheimer*

B. Bee City Update - *Kim Bailey, Board Member*

C. City Council Update- *Lyndsey Simpson, Councilwoman*

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion on a resolution for climate change with monitoring - *Frances Rundlett, Board Member*

B. Updated Splash Pad Memo for City Council- *Ann Twiggs- Board member*

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion on article and climate change "Can one small city make an impact on global climate change" -*Beth Stang, Chairperson*

B. Committee Discussion - *Beth Stang, Chairperson*

7. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Plan a trash clean up in the coming months at MLK park and Sullivan Park - *Beth Stang, Chairperson*

B. Call to Vote on Sub Committees

At the August meeting ESB called for voting on the suggestions for Sub-Committees and recruiting members to oversee sub committees

Suggestions:

Sustainability Planning Sub Committee

Bee City Sub Committee

Recycling and Plastic Reduction Sub Committee

Others?

8. ADJOURNMENT

The City of Hendersonville is committed to providing accessible facilities, programs and services for all people in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you need assistance or an accommodation for this meeting please contact the City Clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting at 697-3005.



CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE
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 28792



Thursday, August 19, 2021 – 3:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call- *Beth Stang, Chairperson*

Drew Finely is also present

Carlos Ruiz is also present- Guest speaker

Caroline Beemer joined at 4:00pm.

Online participates via zoom - Drew Finley, Kim Bailey, Francis R, Lyndsey Simpson, Will (public?) and Caroline Beemer

2. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve and vote on Minutes from July 15th 2021

Comments/changes for these minutes:

Bee City **National** Blog post

3rd bullet- they should be referenced to city of Hendersonville should be clarified.

Changes suggested by Kim Bailey, Board member

2. Discussion: new officers- need to select a Vice Chair, and select new Chair for the year; address secretary selection committee formation- *Beth Stang, Chairperson*
3. Presentation: Carlos Ruiz, Earthfest Plan - *Beth Stang, Chairperson*

Idea of having an earth festival here (Hendersonville) has had a lot of interest. Carlos is working on a proposal to be completed in October regarding funding. Goal is to get people aware.

Idea proposed of a more personal name than Earth Fest

Idea of combining events (Earth fest vs Earth week Vs Garden Jubilee) as many events have overlapping ideas.

4. Monarch Pledge, Connie Knight- *Beth Stang, Chairperson*

Moved to next months meeting

<https://www.nwf.org/mayorsmonarchpledge>

5. Vote on Bee City budget Item from July meeting - *Kim Bailey, board member*

Up to \$750 to go towards sponsoring monarch pledge. Originally proposed \$500, but cost have increased as registration fees have moved from \$10 to \$15.

3. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Bee City Update- *Kim Bailey, Board Member*

Bee City Mural is receiving a lot of positive feedback, also worth noting the area is found to have less litter than before the gardens

Dumpster Area has been repaired by the mural. It has been cleaned up and is now locked so illegal dumping will hopefully no longer be an issue.

Positive news from Hannah Flannigan's - has tried to clean this area for years and now it is finally looking great and staying clean

Living Wall of Vines is pollinator friendly and growing well

Working on pollinator interpretive sign.

Bee Bold at Bold Rock- Scheduled for 11am-7pm on August 28th. Need volunteers to help fill in these shifts.

Field Trip to host SEEA members (pre conference field trip for educators) on Sept 9th, 1230-5pm. Begin at Kim's Farm and end at Bee Mural.

Volunteer needed to be present at Mills River farmers Market- any interest? Any Saturday between Sept. and October

- B. Plastic and Recycling Update - *Gray Jernigan**, Board Member, *Katie Breckheimer will be filling in Gray Jernigan's seat until his return.

Grey will be back on Sept 8th.

Grey to give more detailed report on microplastics in our waters.

School Composting project- no milk cartons as they contain too much plastic

Downstream testing from landfill (unlined)

Tour of composting facility on Sept 22nd, Save the date email to come.

10 Business have pledged "trying to be plastic free". 11 including the City of Hendo
Logo is almost finished.

- C. Working to Be Plastic Free update- *Katie Breckheimer, Board Member*
- D. City Council Update- *Lyndsey Simpson, Councilwoman*

No Big updates from Council. Lyndsey has forwarded emails regarding solar splash pad and solar grants for housing.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Old Business

Continue discussion on different visions and goals for the committee and subcommittees - *Beth Stang, Chairperson*

Beth proposes that we discuss in detail/suggestions for sub committees and recruited members.

Sustainability planning board, Bee city, Recycling.

Vote on next month.

- B. Mike received a voicemail earlier this month and asked me to share with you all. Voicemail message from Kate, partner with Duke Energy for 1/2 off energy study for the city -*Gracie Erwin, Staff Liaison*

Email out this to ESB

- C. Discussion of a resolution for climate change with monitoring -*Frances Rundlett, board member*

Move to next meeting

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. City Splash Pad, Powered by Solar - *Ann Twiggs, Board member*
- B. Upcoming 2045 Comprehensive Plan, Discuss and provide input for a safe clean environment as a priority - *Katie Breckheimer, Board Member*

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Caregivers of Mother Earth

Presented to Environmental Sustainability Committee

September 16, 2021

Elle Travis



Burning Platform Issues

- Prior to 2020, studies of children ages 5-15 in America showed average screen times of 5-7 hours a day versus 4-7 minutes of unstructured play time outdoors.
- What are the long-term outcomes of this imbalance?
 - Nature Deficit Disorder and Bio-Phobia (fear of the natural world)...
- According to the National Institutes of Health, increased screen time can increase the risk of:
 - Obesity
 - Diabetes
 - Heart disease
 - Anxiety
 - Sleep problems
 - Attention problems
 - Depression
- No one is immune from global climate disparity.
 - When we as humans come together as Caregivers of Mother Earth, we plant seeds of change in our children to last a lifetime.

Shift the Paradigm



- The mission and purpose of Caregivers of Mother Earth is to conduct educational programs for youth (rising 1st and 2nd graders) to engender a love and appreciation for nature.
- Children have the opportunity to read Nature Connections' stories and many will get to participate in week-long day camps.
- Teachable moments will be achieved by:
 - Working with nature to observe its diversity.
 - Educating children through hands-on activities.
 - Instilling ideas emphasizing 'both / and' thinking for solutions.
 - Exploring environmental sustainability and self-reliance.
 - Designing and creating gardens for local communities to supplement food supplies and eat healthy while bringing together a broad cross-section of the community.
- Goal is to introduce a way of living that will be a part of these children's core values.



Certification Programs for all Categories

- Certify campers, businesses, nonprofits and cities as Caregivers of Mother Earth. Criteria could include donations of time, talents and money.
- Work with Bee City and Tree City organizations to learn best practice and gain synergy.
- Initial goal is to establish Hendersonville, NC as the first Caregivers of Mother Earth city
- Over time export the model to neighboring towns and cities and eventually expand the model more broadly.



Caregivers of Mother Earth Bring Community Together

Partial list of community supporters includes:

- City of Hendersonville:
 - Mayor Barbara Volk has expressed interest in having Hendersonville become the first Caregivers of Mother Earth designated city.
 - City Councilwoman Lyndsey Simpson liaison with Mayor and Environmental Sustainability Committee is onboard with concept.
- Henderson County Schools
 - Superintendent John Bryant and Elementary Education Director Shannon Marlow.
 - Plan to pilot Nature Connections book series in the spring at Dana Elementary
 - Fern Leaf Community Charter School - Director Kathleen Askew
- Business and Nonprofit Leaders:
 - Christina Raymond, Head of Raymond's Garden Center
 - Lauren Bayne, Executive Director of Camplify
 - Annie Higgins, Director and John Murphy, Educational Programs at Bullington Gardens
 - Kirstin McDonald and Susan Fay - Holmes Educational State Forest
 - Katlin Keller - Dupont State Forest



Potential Project Locations, Next Steps and Timeframe

- Gardens and landscape projects could be as straightforward as a vegetable garden at a school to a variety of landscape designs in parks, greenways, and other public space authorized for planting.
- Hold a Zoom Meeting in October to solidify next steps.
- Meet with educators to adopt program for hands-on activities for children during the day camp.
- Commence fundraising and grant writing activities.



MEMO

September 16, 2021

To: Hendersonville City Council

From: City of Hendersonville Environmental and Sustainability Board (ESB)

Subject: Solar Powered Splash Pad

Hendersonville Kiwanis are partnering with the City of Hendersonville (COH) to fundraise for a community splash pad to be installed (WLOS News August 2, 2021). The ESB would like to recommend that the COH use the proposed community splash pad as an opportunity to invest in renewable energy. This small-scale project could serve as a demonstration of the efficiency and economic viability of the use of solar energy. Additionally, installing a solar powered splash pad could inspire other creative ways for our city to incorporate solar energy into future construction.

Solar powered splash pads have been installed in several communities around the nation, specifically in Lake Havasu, AZ, Houston, TX, and Sebastian, FL (UniSource Energy Services Renewable Energy, Oct. 2019, Dietrichson, Sep. 10, 2012 and FPL SolarNow, Apr. 13, 2018). It may be possible to have the solar panels donated by a regional solar panel company as this happened in the Lake Havasu (UniSource Energy Services) and Houston (Reliant an NRG Company). Florida Power and Light (FPL) approached the Sebastian City Council with their solar powered splash pad proposal (FPL SolarNow, Apr. 13, 2018).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently issued an alarming report on the trajectory of climate change ("Code red for humanity": report gives stark warning on climate change, says wild weather events will worsen, USAToday, Rice, Aug. 10, 2021). For the future sustainability, health and safety of our community, it is imperative that renewable energy sources be investigated and utilized in any way that they can.

The ESB strongly recommends that the COH research the acquisition, and feasibility, of using solar panels to power the new splash pad. ESB is willing to initiate the process and approach Duke Energy and/or local solar panel businesses to determine if they would be interested in assisting Hendersonville with the demonstration project.

References:

<https://wlos.com>

<https://www.uesaz.com/news/splash-pad-powered-by-solar/>

[Solar-powered "splash pad" park coming to Fifth Ward - Houston Tomorrow](#)

<https://solarnow.fpl.com>

www.usatoday.com

<https://ipcc.ch>

Can one small city make an impact on global climate change?



Adam Sullivan

Nov. 21, 2019 4:20 pm



A crowd fills the intersection of Dubuque Street and Iowa Avenue while waiting to rally with Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg in Iowa City on Friday, Oct. 4, 2019. The student-led movement has resulted in the Iowa City school board and the City of Iowa City each passing a resolution. (Liz Martin/The Gazette)

[Buy Photo](#)

Iowa City is testing the limits of local action and global impact.

Our famously progressive City Council has made addressing climate change a top priority, but city governments in Iowa don't have broad authority to strictly regulate the chief culprits of carbon emissions.

Climate action also presents a tragedy of the common situation for localities - one small city alone can't have a measurable impact on global carbon output, while efforts to do so could put a community at an economic disadvantage to neighbors who go on polluting relatively uninhibited.

[Iowa City's climate action plan](#) - put in motion by a [climate crisis declaration](#) unanimously approved by the council earlier this year - is an experiment in balancing those competing factors. The plan calls for a drastic reduction in the city's carbon footprint, aiming for a 45 percent reduction by 2030, and 'net-zero' emissions by 2050.

[Editorial: Iowa City is leading the state on climate action](#)

Some climate activists will be disappointed that Iowa City's plan does not impose heavy regulations for commuters, industrial emitters or homebuilders, like some other cities around the nation and world do. That's largely because the state government limits the power cities have over such activities.

"We can't regulate our way there. There's some things we can do, but we're going to have to rely more on education and incentives and those types of things than maybe some other communities do that you read about across the country," City Manager [Geoff Fruin said at a meeting this week](#).

On a list of more than 60 specific action points in the city manager's 100-day report on the climate crisis, only about 10 are designated as regulations, while the rest are internal activities by the city or voluntary projects for businesses and individuals.

In other words, the city can't really force its populace into compliance. Instead, city leaders must convince the people of the value of going green.

"A cultural shift is going to have to take place where people are going to voluntarily change their everyday habits," City Council member Rockne Cole said.

As the plan was developed, officials hoped to employ a more stringent energy code that would apply stronger efficiency standards to private property owners. However, the [city attorney reported in July](#) that the city government does not have the power to go beyond the energy code adopted by the state.

The city expects to lobby the Iowa Legislature for local control over energy codes, but that's politically infeasible in the foreseeable future.

Instead, the city will have to rely on incentives and education to achieve its goals, such as bonuses and tax breaks for environmentally mindful developers, new transportation options and outreach to promote energy reduction by individuals.

While that all costs money - likely to be paid for initially by \$1 million annually from an emergency property tax levy, which could be offset by a reduction in another tax levy - it doesn't require a bloated new regulatory regime that would scare off new investments.

If Iowa City's carrots-not-sticks climate change response proves successful, it will be a strong model for other cities to emulate.

Comments: (319) 339-3156; adam.sullivan@thegazette.com