



Meeting Date: February 11, 2025

Meeting Time: 5:30 P.M.

Meeting Location: City Hall, Boardroom
118 Hillsboro Avenue

EDWARDSVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members

Sarah Cundiff, Chairman Scott Weber
Susan Bautsch Jan Ruckman
Clint Soldan Cara Lytle
Michael Katich Stephanie Malench
Rachel Tompkins Anna Glauber

Ex-Officio Members

Chris Farrar, Alderman
Luca Krug, Public Works
Nate Tingley, Parks & Recreation
Marc Miller, Horticulturist

Approved Signature: /s/S. Cundiff: by Staff Liaison

Date: 3/11/24

Call to Order: 5:32pm

Roll Call: All board members were present except for Rachel Tompkins. All Ex-Officio members were present except for Marc Miller and Nate Tingley.

Approval of Minutes for January 14, 2026, by Stephanie Malench, Clint Soldan seconded, all approved.

Public Comment/ Announcements:

Alan Vest talked briefly about Oaks being killed because of pesticide drift. He's going to continue researching this issue.

Stephanie Todd gave a presentation about the Dark Sky Missouri initiative. Light pollution from cities is interfering with the migration of birds as well as insects, especially monarch butterflies and lightning bugs. Approximately six hundred million birds die from collisions with buildings during the spring/fall migration. The Dark Sky initiative encourages cities to turn lights down or off in buildings, parking lots and residences during periods when birds are migrating. The Mississippi flyway is used by sixty percent of migratory birds in North America. There has been a dramatic increase in light pollution since the 1950's.

Edwardsville's ordinance prohibits light trespass; however, it does not apply to recreational facilities, schools or City-owned facilities. She encouraged us look at the lighting ordinances in several communities in the St. Louis region: Ellisville, Kirkwood, Brentwood, Clayton, Creve Coeur and Webster Grove. The five principals for responsible outdoor lighting advocated by the Dark Sky initiative have been incorporated into the lighting ordinances of these cities. She encourages us to modify our light ordinance to reduce light pollution and adopt a lights-out program during the spring/fall immigration.

Budget: Marc Miller wasn't present, but he reported to Sarah Cundiff that no monies in our budget had been spent since our last meeting.

Old Business:

1. Recycling at parks & facilities –Parks & Rec department is working on getting blue recycling totes for Plummer parks.
2. Sustainability Plan update/review – We would like the City to give us a presentation on certain topics in their sustainability plan. Board members reviewed the plan and chose topics they would like to see in the presentation.
3. Budget review/discussion
 - a. 50/50 Tree program – There are remaining funds that were not used in the Fall 50/50 tree program. It was suggested these funds could be used to give away trees or possibly run the program this Spring. It was also suggested that this program could include businesses next

- b. Large Projects – If we have a large project which was not included in our budget, we can make a request for money to be allocated to our budget for a new project.
- c. Tree Inventory Management – The forty-five-thousand-dollars in this line item was highlighted in red front in the budget. This indicates the money is coming from grant funds.
- d. Green Space Funds – The Edwardsville Enhancement fund receives a percentage of sales to taxes, and it is used to purchase property for green space.
- e. Rain Barrels – Stephanie had an idea to offer rain barrels to residence for water conservation and reduce runoff.
- f. ROW Tree Planting – Increase budget for tree planting due to increase in cost.
- g. Rain Garden – Install a rain garden in future applicable spaces in the City.

New Business

- 1. Data center discussion – There was much discussion about the proposed data center in Troy, Illinois and the impact these centers have on the electric grid and the community.

Discussion:

Meeting adjourned with unanimous approval at 7:36pm. Scott Weber motioned to adjourn the meeting and Clint Soldan seconded the motion. All in favor

Next meeting will be on March 11, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Committee/board members must be present in person for meetings. If not available, then City Administrator or City Attorney must be present. All meetings must be physically available to the public to participate. All voting must be accomplished via roll call. If prospective attendees require an interpreter or other access accommodation, please contact the Edwardsville City Clerk's office at 618-692-7500 no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting to arrange the accommodations.