



Meeting Date: Thursday, February 16th, 2023
Meeting Time: 6:00 P.M.
Meeting Location: City Hall-118 Hillsboro Avenue
Edwardsville, IL 62025

COOL CITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Members

Rachel Tompkins, Chair
Brigham Dimick
Jamie Henderson (not present)
Michael Katich
Tom Kinsella

Cara Lytle
Stephanie Malench
Kristen Pauli
Sherrill Wible (not present)

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call RT, BD, MK, TK, CL, SM, KP all present
3. Approval of Minutes from the January 19th, 2022 Cool Cities Committee meeting
4. Citizens wishing to address the Board – Mary Vandevord, Sean Pelato, SJ Morrison, Kelsey Shaw, Sarah Cundiff, Mary Grose
 - Who else is encouraging planting in communities?
 - How can we assist this process of publicizing the use of native plantings in residential properties?
 - RT's stated goals is how we can collaborate rather than duplicate or compete.

Two staff members of Heartland Conservancy addressed the committee: Mary Vandevord President and CEO, and Sean Pelato, Conservation Stewardship Coordinator. Kelsey Shaw from Conservation @ Home presented a powerpoint presentation.

Conservation @ Home is a program is to help residents have agency in taking positive moves toward abating climate change, bringing awareness to native plantings and appreciate its beauty. Heartland Conservancy gives site consultations for \$50 (home) and \$100 (business). They provide same-day approval. Ways to get involved:

- a. *Become a trained evaluation*
- b. *Become a certified Conservation@Home site*
- c. *Act as sponsored partner, host volunteer trainings, etc.*

Heartlands Conservancy also does Native Plant Sales

Mary Vandevord would appreciate Cool Cities Edwardsville promoting and advertising the Conservation @ Home program and to host training sessions.

B. Sarah Cundiff – Edwardsville Tree and Beautification Commission – Tree Beautification Commission is focused on city property and has started implementing 50% native and pollinators as a guiding principle. Another vision is *Pollinator Pathways*. Latest projects are at Public Works and the Childrens' Museum. SJ Morrison states that education is key. We can put a page on the City of Edwardsville webpage that keeps the links to all of these initiatives. We can ask Dierbergs and Schnucks and Home Depot. SM stated that Market Basket does a great job promoting native plants. MG requested that Heartlands Conservancy give a talk at the library.

B. Mary Grose – Good Dirt Composting/Community Garden - Mary shared a lot of specific information about how the organizations represented by our guests have made contributions to plant native species and pollinators including Drda and Bohm Woods and Sand Prairie which are all being restored for native plants, as is the Nature Center, the Children's Museum, Senior Living Center off of Rt 143, a grant to plant native plants near Nickel Plate train session, and many other sites have been planted. MCT Trails just planted wildflowers and are extricating invasive species one mile per year. Mary Vandevord volunteered to facilitate a map of all the achievements and sites of this campaign. MG recommends we reach out to neighborhood organizations. SJ suggested we reach out to Goshen Market and the Children's Museum. RT suggests we create an event in City Park for education and selling plants. Other Cool Cities list lots of resources to serve as a model for our city's existing Cool Cities website page. Having a one sheet printable pamphlet would be great. MV said that *Grow Native* (out of Missouri Prairie Foundation) has a great brochure. SJ suggests cityofedwardsville.com/natives and piggy backing on the Earth Day event at the Nature Center on April 22nd. SJ suggests that we can give businesses badges – like they already do for Bicycle Friendly Businesses – for those who have native plantings.

A discussion ensued about other ways to get the word out to the public. Heartlands Conservancy is always happy to host public events for educational purposes. RT asks how we can reach citizens who are less educated about native plantings and pollinators. RT asks how we can apply for a *Pollinator Pathway* recognition for our city. SJ stated that every 2000 feet there has to be a pollinator path (including private residences). Heartlands Conservancy volunteered to use GPS to create a pollinator patch map of our city. MK was concerned that private homeowners may not want their homes marked on a map. MG is researching the criteria for *Pollinator Pathways*. SJ stated that they are looking at ways to reduce the mowing, which will increase pollinators and wild flowers. SJ emphasized critical pieces of ground that we need to make a concerted effort to conserve and acquire.

EBT commission noted that the maintenance of the berms around Governors Parkway will be transferred from the state to the city. They will campaign to turn it into native prairie grass.

Unified signage, mapping, public event, and a unified website were deemed excellent ideas to pursue. MG mentioned that mayoral pledges, and articles in the Intelligencer, social media, will reach a diverse group of citizens. Madison County has a program entitled *Green Schools* now led by Lisa Taylor. MG stated that Vanessa from the Watershed Nature Center is educating youngsters. There is an ordinance that allows for maintained natural landscaping.

Heartlands Conservancy is working on buying land to help preserve the endangered chorus frog along the I-155 corridor.

5. Announcements

A. Open Meetings Act – RT articulated that forwarding information to the committee is not a personal directive nor has anything to do with Cool Cities Edwardsville business. Rather, it simply sharing information on an FYI basis as citizens who may share similar concerns. There are Styrofoam and bottle bills being considered in Springfield.

6. Old Business

A. Republic Services - Recycling at Public Events – KP reported that labels have been made and they look good. She will forward the design. Now the focus is to shift from the design stage to the implementation stage.

B. Parking Ordinance – no report but the goal is to have the framework to the ordinance by the end of March.

C. Green Cities Challenge – a date was determined to give Green Cities Challenge plaque to Mayor Risavy next Tuesday, Feb. 21st, pending if it is possible to get on the agenda.

7. New Business -

8. Adjournment - BD moved to adjourn with TK seconding at 7:32pm.

Next Cool Cities Committee Meeting: March 16 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 118 Hillsboro Avenue

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

Rachel Tompkins