

May 20, 2026

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Present: Mahmoud Tanana, Rene Ziaja, Claudia Walters, Ramsey Saymuah, Mohamed Dabaja, Machhadie "Micho" Assi, Asma Said

Also Present: Sara Elhassan (DPH), Ms. Sue Stanley, Salina Elementary, Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, Corporation Counsel

- **Call to Order, Roll Call:** Chair Saymuah called meeting to order at 5:40pm. Roll call, quorum present.
- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Tannana, seconded by Commissioner Ziaja to approve the previous March 25, 2026 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous and minutes were approved.
- **Old Business: Suspension of Corporation Counsel Attendance:** Motioned by Commissioner Saymuah and seconded by Commissioner Tanana to rescind consideration of Corporation Counsel until next meeting. Vote was unanimous and the motion was adopted.
- **Urban Forestry Plan Committee Update:** Members of the committee gave updates on current goals and plans, expecting to provide a recommendation. Discussion on if the committee needs to be granted an extended timeline.
- **New Business:** Ms. Sue Stanley, Principal of Salina Elementary School provided commissioners with a presentation on their efforts on their Green Schoolyards initiative, which involved updated playscapes and potential green wall that will mitigate noise and dust disturbances from adjacent properties that have historically affected the school and its students.
- **Resident request to introduce reusable trays to Dearborn Public Schools:** As Dearborn Public Schools are a different entity and administered separately from City jurisdiction, it was found that this request is beyond the scope of the Commission.
- **Detroit-Windsor RCE External Sustainability Advisory Council:** Commissioner Dabajeh brought this item forward, affirming that the RCE would like to collaborate with members of the commission. After some discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Saymuah, seconded by Commissioner Ziaja to approve the Environmental Commission's membership to the RCE External Sustainability Advisory Council. The vote was unanimous, motion was adopted.

- **Environmental Health Manager:** Discussion was had regarding the Environmental Health Manager, and that a new Director will be appointed at some time in the near future.
- **Recommendation:** Managed Landscape Ordinance: Commissioner Ziaja recommended that a managed landscape ordinance was needed for the City, and that further discussion on this topic will happen.
- **Draft FY 2027 Work Plan:** Commissioner Saymuah reminded the commission that one of the duties of the Commission is to provide City Administration with an annual work plan that is due in July.
- **Adjournment:** Chair Saymuah entertained a motion to adjourn. Walters motioned to adjourn, Ziaja supported, all in favor. Meeting adjourned 6:40 pm.