

**COOL CITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 16th, 2024**

Brennan called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The following members were present and answered roll call: Brennan and Martin.

Also Present: Senior Planner Caitlin Rice, Willoughby Farms Superintendent Carol Freker

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

No speakers from the floor were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Martin made a motion to approve the September 16th, 2024, meeting minutes. Seconded by Brennan.

Voice vote: All Ayes. Motion approved (2-0)

DISCUSSION:

1. Cool Cities Projects & Priorities

The Cool Cities Committee discussed several projects including native garden promotion with signage, promoting sustainable business and programming with Willoughby Farm.

Native Gardens:

The Committee expressed interest in promoting this project to help increase awareness and support education. Staff will work on a program and budget for Wild Ones native garden signage and plant labels to promote the SWIL chapter.

Invasive Plants:

The Committee expressed interest in promoting invasive species events held by the Parks Department and Willoughby Farm on newsletters, webpages and City scoop etc.

Community Gardens:

The Committee discussed bringing forward a Community Garden ordinance/program. This is currently on hold for future consideration as the committee gains more membership.

Promoting Sustainable Businesses:

The Committee discussed promotion of local businesses who engage in sustainable practices or sell eco-friendly options such as Habitat for Humanity Restore, Lou Belle and Bing vendor for refilling cleaning products, Verona's composting etc. The Committee discussed the Green Dining Alliance and methods to promote the program.

Programming & Events:

The Committee has an interest in programming/tabling but would like to start small and partner with other groups.

2. Cool Cities Committee Members

The committee discussed potential new members to fill vacancies and promotion methods.

STAFF REPORT

Staff discussed with the Committee the sustainable events newsletter.

Carol Freker discussed the food rescue and food recovery programs at Willoughby Farm, composting program and bio char.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

n/a

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

n/a

Motion to adjourn made by Martin and seconded by Brennan.

Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Approved (3-0) ADJOURNMENT at 7:07 pm.