

COOL CITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2026

Goldstein called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. The following members were present and answered roll call: Goldstein, Martin and Canada.

Also Present: Senior Planner, Caitlin Rice

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Martin made a motion to approve March 16, 2026, meeting minutes. Seconded by Goldstein.

Voice Vote: 3 ayes, Motion approved, (3-0)

DISCUSSION

1. Goals & Projects Update

Recycle Coach

Rice provides brief update on recycle coach, stating the intention to push the app in 2027 after the City confirms their waste hauler at the end of the year.

Memorial Day Tabling

Committee discusses available shifts for tabling at Memorial Day Fireworks show to be held Sunday, May 24th. Martin and Canada will table from 4-6 pm and Rice and another available member from 6-8 pm. The Committee discusses potential activities and engagement resources regarding the Single Use Bag Fee survey and Lights Out for Migratory Birds programs.

Arbor Day Tree Naming

Rice provides the five (5) submissions for the tree naming contest. Rice will send out a survey for all members to vote on their favorite name for each tree.

Committee Calendar

Committee discusses upcoming tabling opportunity for Horseradish Festival, June 5-6th. The Committee agrees that ideally to table only on Saturday due to work schedules and length of festival. Rice will contact organizers to see if tabling for only daytime on Saturday would be acceptable, otherwise, committee may look at small shifts to hand out flyers for the Single Use Bag Fee.

Committee looks towards June sustainability tips for native or pollinator gardens and C3 discussions and July/August for a partnership with a sustainable craft. The Committee expresses interest in a reusable bag craft or workshop.

2. Sustainability Plan Discussion

Rice shares an overview of the initial public feedback during the 2020 Sustainability plan and several sustainability achievements from the City since the plans adoption. The City has since adopted a Bike/Ped Master Plan and started implementing shared use paths and pedestrian safety barriers on City streets, installed solar panels for several City facilities, adopted a solar energy system ordinance, composting and native landscaping ordinance, adopted Infrastructure Design Manual which allows for more green stormwater solutions, removal of invasive species at City parks and replacing plant material with natives, Uptown Tree Planting, MCT Micro, Willoughby Farm composting at City facilities such as City Hall, Fire, PD and Gateway Convention center and construction for the biochar and ASP systems.

Rice shares that the Committee has had a great focus on engagement and education with the public and an active member of the Green Cities Challenge. Rice shares that with the upcoming adoption of the City's Comprehensive Plan,

it is a good opportunity for the Committee to touch base on the Sustainability Plan and determine any other focus points for the next few years.

Martin supports updating the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and inquires into the City's policy on educating new or current employees on sustainability policies such as no idling, community gardens, composting, etc. Goldstein encourages EV Chargers and updating City fleet to be responsible with taxpayer dollars while reducing environmental impacts and auditing the City on light pollution or dimmable lighting. Goldstein also emphasizes the importance and opportunity to showcase the City's sustainability achievements, as well as the cost savings such as the solar panel installation. Potential for tours of sustainable City projects. Canada encourages promotion of rain barrels to manage water usage during droughts and an incentive program to remove invasive species such as the Bradford Pear.

Rice makes notes of the Committee's priorities and will coordinate with City Admin and other departments on these items and methods to track and promote the City's sustainability achievements.

STAFF REPORT

N/A

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Martin shares the Great Race on June 20th.

Goldstein will be unavailable for the next meeting on June 15th.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

N/A

Motion to adjourn made by Martin and seconded by Canada.

Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Approved (3-0) ADJOURNMENT at 7:00 pm.