

**COOL CITIES COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Brennan called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The following members were present and answered roll call: Martin, Page, Collins.

Also Present: Senior Planner, Caitlin Rice, Noah Canada (Resident), One member of the public

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Collins made a motion to approve September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Martin.

Voice Vote: 3 ayes, 1 abstain (Page), Motion approved, (3-0)

Goldstein arrived at 6:02 pm.

**DISCUSSION**

Rice provides an update on the Leave the Leaves sign program. Rice explains that engagement with this program has been less popular with the public compared to Low Mow Spring. Rice recommends encouraging more education up to the program and consider number of signs for next year program.

The Committee considers the difference in interest between the two programs, including more excited more blooming in spring and potential disadvantages with leaving leaves where the condition of a lawn may be more a priority for some landowners.

Rice provides an update of upcoming events for the committee including the tabling at Fall Festival, Uptown Tree Planting event and Green Business Challenge Awards Luncheon.

Martin discusses the existing trees in Uptown and their debris and considerations for new trees that cause less potential nuisance in the future.

**Fall Festival:**

Committee discusses the scheduling for logistics, responsibilities and games for the Fall Festival tabling on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**New Earth Farms:**

Rice provides an update on diversion rates for New Earth Farms. There are 20 active registrants and 1,515 lbs have been diverted from this location as of October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Rice explains that a promotion video of the drop off site is on hold due to staff's time towards PFAs education.

**PFAS:**

Rice provides a brief update on the PFAs open panel with City Council and resources shared. Brennan starts a discussion with the committee regarding the link of PFAs issues with sustainability and the long-term impacts of our society's habits. Brennan recommends the committee push for more education on impacts of plastics and reducing plastic usage in Collinsville, specifically a plastic bag tax. Committee discusses access and promotion of reusable bags. Goldstein discusses the public health impacts and concerns of the public regarding exposure to PFAs and recommends the City consider promoting access or hosting mobile health units to provide cancer screening and preventative care, including Siteman Cancer Center. Goldstein emphasizes that the root of the residents concerns are their immediate and long-term health impacts. Brennan shares Order of St. Francis (OSF) has a mobile health van that provides a variety of services. Page recommends Anderson Healthcare as a potential resource. Rice will research these programs and share with City management.

### **Dark Skys & Lighting**

Rice shares resources from a presentation by Dr. Chris Palma regarding Dark Skies Initiative and Lights Out Initiatives and methods. The presentation provides an overview of current and historic lighting practices in urban regions and the impacts to wildlife. Committee discusses existing lighting in the City and potential opportunities for improvement with public infrastructure.

Noah Canada, member from the public and Master Gardener, shares information from a webinar with Doug Tallamoy that explains the impact of lighting to insects. Insects evolved to keep lighting to their rear, the artificial light sources confuse the natural cycle of the insects. Mr. Canada also shares that the Bird Safe Program visits tall buildings in spring and fall in Clayton and St. Louis with high reflection to try and educate building owners/managers to turn off lighting to prevent confusion of birds. The high reflective buildings confuse and attract the birds causing fatal collisions.

Rice provides resources and reading materials from the American Planning Association regarding Climate Resilience, Climate Mitigation and Adaption and Artificial Intelligence. Rice explains that data centers are an increasing trend in development and Collinsville has received inquiries and the City is considering a moratorium to allow for more research and implementation of regulations. The Committee discusses the potential impacts versus potential benefits of data centers and discusses resources to learn more.

Rice notifies she will be out of town for the November Cool Cities Committee meeting. The Committee agrees to cancel the November meeting and reconvene in December.

### **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Goldstein requests the Committee to discuss a yearly calendar for events and targets at the December meeting.

Martin gives a reminder of the C3 awards on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Brennan shares the importance of this community event. Martin recommends Stephanie Malench as a resource as a guest speaker to share about the bag tax program in Edwardsville.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

N/A

### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Bag Tax Discussion

Mobile Health Units

Yearly Calendar Planning for 2026

Update on Data Center Moratorium

**Motion to adjourn made by Goldstein and seconded by Collins.**

**Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Approved (5-0) ADJOURNMENT at 7:21 pm.**