

## **COOL CITIES COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Brennan called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. The following members were present and answered roll call: Brennan, Martin, Page, Goldstein.

Also Present: Senior Planner, Caitlin Rice, Carol Frerker, Willoughby Farms Superintendent), Scott Rayho (Resident)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Page made a motion to approve July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Martin.

Voice Vote: 2 ayes, Page and Goldstein Abstain. Motion approved (4-0)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Election of Officers**

The Committee elected Eliana Goldstein as Vice Chair for the Cool Cities Committee.

### **DISCUSSION**

1. C3 Award
  - a. Award categories have already been determined. Committee will have an opportunity to nominate next year.
2. Fall Programs. The Committee discussed upcoming programs for fall.
  - a. Green Business Spotlight will be more focused on the cooler months when regular business will be more slow.
  - b. Sustainability Tip September – Dark Skies Initiative and migrating birds
  - c. The Committee reviewed potential Leave the Leaves signage. The Committee concurred on the design drafted by staff with the following changes: Remove informational text at bottom. Enlarge the main text and change to Collinsville purple, add QR code and enlarge Cool Cities Logo a bit.
3. Fall Festival. The Committee can have a table at the Fall Festival. The requirements include candy and a game.
  - a. The Committee discussed what types of games are related to the group. Frerker is working on a compost wheel in collaboration with SIUE and can bring in vermicomposting. Page mentioned an educational matching game. The Committee will plan on a craft night after the September meeting to finalize games.
4. Upcoming Events
  - a. Reminder for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner August 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Reminder for the Committees Highway Clean up October 11<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – meet at Rural King
  - c. April 20<sup>th</sup>, Weeding Day and good volunteer opportunity for Committee
5. Budget. Rice announces that budget season is upon us and is seeking feedback from the Committee on their priorities for next year.
  - a. Signage Program:
    - i. Committee decided on 60 signs total, 30 for Low Mow and 30 for Leaves and intend to sell at \$10 a sign to help recoup costs (\$15 a sign to make).
  - b. Merch/Giveaways/T-Shirts
    - i. Committee wants to focus on T-shirts for the group only to help identify the Committee at events. No other giveaway items at this time. Will focus on providing resources or making own seed packets or plants.
  - c. Air Pollution Monitors
    - i. The committee wants to support UCM's efforts on expanding air pollution an environmental justice awareness by adding monitors in Collinsville. Planning to budget for 2 monitors. Committee would be interested in opportunities to linking monitors to the City's digital signs.
  - d. Daffodils project
    - i. Chair Brennan expresses interest in a beautification project along the Adopted Highway by planting daffodils along the slopes of the road.

### **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Frerker mentions the Township is seeking interested individuals for managing a Community Garden. The Committee discussed the St. Louis Road project and a collective disappointment in lack of greenery or innovative stormwater techniques such as permeable pavers or flexi pave. Staff will look more into the overall design and plans for the project.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Fall Festival Tabling  
Tree Planting Grant Update  
Budget Update

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

**Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Approved (4-0) ADJOURNMENT at 7:18 pm.**