



**ROLLING MEADOWS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 3600 Kirchoff Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008**

**Official Members:** Chair Michael Koehler, Karen Gill, Joan Thomas,  
Maggie Trevor, Raymond Mau, Bonnie Haferkamp, Vacant

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 meeting minutes  
Approval of the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting minutes**
- 4. New Business**
  - a) 2026 Environmental Committee Work Plan and Event Schedule
  - b) 2026 Communications Tasks
- 5. Old Business**
- 6. Other Discussion**
- 7. Upcoming Meeting Dates**
  - a) Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- 8. Adjournment**

## Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee

### Meeting Minutes

10/2/2025 at 6:00 at City Hall Council Chambers

1. **Call to Order** by **Interim Chairperson Maggie Trevor** at 6:00 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

Present: Interim Chair Maggie Trevor, Karen Gill, Joan Thomas, Raymond Mau, Bonnie Haferkamp

**Absent:** Chair Michael Koehler

Also Present: Robert Savage (Planner and Management Analyst), Alysse Dahlgren, Fred Vogt.

#### 3. Minutes Approval

**Chair Trevor** requested a motion to approve the September 4, 2025 meeting minutes. **Member Mau** made the motion, **Member Thomas** seconded. All voted aye in voice vote.

**Chair Trevor** requested a motion to approve the August 7, 2025 meeting minutes. **Member Thomas** made the motion, **Member Haferkamp** seconded. All voted aye in voice vote.

#### 4. New Business

##### a. Community Garden Update .

**P/MA Savage** informed the Committee that the Community Garden has lost its leadership, and without anyone taking a leadership position would be unlikely to be able to continue operating. No one has so far volunteered for the position, and the City understands that it is a substantial commitment and is therefore unable to help in the ongoing operation. While the Garden is certainly viewed as an asset to the community which supports several goals in the Sustainability Plan, the arrangement has always been that the Garden may use City property but the City would generally take a hands-off approach to managing the garden due to limited capacity; this allows autonomy for the gardeners to manage the parcel.

The options are (1) for the City to begin dismantling the garden equipment and the end of the gardening season and begin preparing new season landscaping or lawn on the parcel in spring; (2) a Committee member may wish to volunteer personally to take a leadership position at the garden, knowing that it is a time commitment, or; (3) the Committee may assist in finding a community organization such as a school, community group, church group, or other, who could help to manage the parcel.

**Member Haferkamp** asked how many participants there are already, and if the other members are aware that the garden may be discontinued? **P/MA Savage** responded that the City is unsure of precisely how many members there are, and understands that members were offered leadership positions and declined. They have not been made aware of the potential future of the garden by the City, as this decision hasn't been made yet.

**Member Mau** asked what the work actually entailed, noting that there are significantly larger gardens in Arlington Heights that appear to be well-run by the volunteers without the issues that were mentioned.

**P/MA Savage** responded that the City is not aware of the details of work needed, but only that it's been acknowledged to be a problematic workload for the current leaders and that no one else will volunteer.

**Mr. Vogt** said that there was formerly a system where plots were essentially rented for a small amount per year, and asked if this system was still in place? **P/MA Savage** noted that it wasn't as the City's arrangement has been to not intervene in how the Garden is operated.

**Chair Trevor** noted that there may be additional people in the townhomes and condominium buildings across Kirchoff that could be approached to take up garden plots.

**Member Thomas** asked if it would be worth reaching out to Harper College or Rolling Meadows High School to see if there were any student projects that could involve the Garden. **P/MA Savage** responded that it was worth looking into, though it may introduce difficulty in how it would be managed - would it become a purely educational garden for the school, or would they manage it with the current plot holders staying there?

**Mr. Vogt** said that the City should consider advertising the plots to raise awareness of the garden, which could help with getting more people to maintain it. **Member Thomas** agreed, and we can use the winter to get more interest.

**P/MA Savage** noted that the Kirchoff Road Corridor Study identifies the area around the plots as a potential area for improvements at the gateway to the park, and depending on how the City intends to implement this goal, there may be scope to better integrate and activate the creekfront and park edge.

**Member Gill** said that the City should plan for much better pedestrian and bike access to the park from Kirchoff Road, particularly if there are future plans to keep Meadows Fest and other festival there. **P/MA Savage** said that there has been some brainstorming about improving access and activity, and potentially adding some public art and placemaking elements along the Creekside and behind the Endeavor Health facility as a longer-term strategy.

**Mr. Vogt** said that there should be more wayfinding signage to the park which includes the community gardens, perhaps renaming it to "Park Lane" or "Kimball Hill Alley".

## 5. Old Business

### a. Bike Party Updates:

**Chair Trevor** reintroduced the Bike Party event planning item, and asked if there needed to be voting action to allow spending from the escrow account. **P/MA Savage** said that he'd confirmed with the City Manager that there does not need to be voting action, as the funds have been approved for spending by the Council already, however future spending would still be voted on as a matter of good practice so that the Committee is fully informed and consents to the distribution of funds. The City has purchased helmets, bike like, stickers and temporary tattoos, chalk, doughnuts, and organized the coffee truck and mechanic.

**Chair Trevor** asked if the bathroom problem had been resolved. **P/MA Savage** said that Public Works staff had assessed whether they could turn on the water at the firehouse, but unfortunately the water was disconnected externally due to a leak. Staff would work to see if Lagman House or Trinity Lutheran Church would be able to open their restrooms to the Bike Party attendees.

**P/MA Savage** said that staff would do the preliminary clean up and set up, and that there are enough chairs, tables, and tents at the firehouse for our uses. Park District have offered to mark out the course and will be arriving at 8:00AM, and Savage will be on site from then after picking up the Doughnuts. Committee members should aim to be at the Firehouse by 9:00AM to help put out the chair and tables and set up exhibits etc.

**Member Trevor** said that for next year, the City should reach out to Elk Grove Township about their facilities - they have a full tiny village and training course that they might be able to let us use, or at least to generate ideas for our bike rodeo setup. **Mr. Vogt** said that Public Works used to store abandoned bikes and occasionally auction them off; we could look into whether this is still a possibility and give bikes away at future events.

### b. Sustainability Plan Updates and Action Plan

At the request of the Chair, **P/MA Savage** provided an update to the Sustainability Plan implementation status. There are currently only three Sustainability Plan goals that are under the "No Action" status, meaning that all other goals are either "Complete", 22 goals, or "In Progress", also 22 goals. Of the "No action" status goals, two are largely administrative:

- The City's subdivision regulations are scheduled for modification in 2026, which is to be conducted by staff through the Planning and Zoning Commission. Staff will update the Committee when this is underway.
- The second no action item, regarding plastic bag pollution mitigation, is currently in review at the state level, and the state may enact a plastic bag ban as early as 2029. If this law is enacted, which we expect to learn about in the coming months, the City will not take any individual action.

The third no action item, SC-4, "Rolling Meadows will raise awareness of diverse cultural traditions", may be well suited to the Environmental Committee's work in engagement and community action, and staff would like to workshop ideas with the RMEC to see how upcoming City or Committee events might include this.

**Mr. Vogt** asked if there was any interest in doing a multicultural event in Kimball Hill Park, and what it might take to make that happen. **Member Thomas** said that the School used to do a multicultural event every year, and that it was almost too successful and got so big that it was too difficult to manage. This involved a dance showcase, a cultural food swap, and other art and cultural items, but the space couldn't support the amount of interest that it generated.

**Ms. Dahlgren** said that the City could help to promote the various cultural months, such as Black History Month, Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month, etc.

**Mr. Vogt** said that there was a great amount of new international cuisine restaurants that could be promoted and celebrated. And asked what would be the scope and scale for the events? **P/MA Savage** responded that it hadn't been determined yet, and it would depend on whether the Committee would prefer to leverage existing events or start a new event. There are a lot of different cultures in Rolling Meadows that could be spotlighted: There is a very large central American/Hispanic constituency, polish and eastern European, as well as central Asian. Chicago metropolitan area is also the third largest native American community, with many outreach and educational groups that may be able to collaborate on an event.

**Ms. Dahlgren** suggested that there might be a way to incorporate this into the Community Arts grants, and designating a certain amount of money from the fund towards Mexican and Hispanic artists to create a work for the Algonquin corridor.

**P/MA Savage** suggested that there are many ideas being floated that would be well suited to a long term strategy for this goal; some ideas that came to mind that were closer to the scale of previous Sustainability Saturdays events, potentially 30-50 guests, might include something like a "how to make hand pulled noodles" session with Lagman House, or a winter naturalist walk in Busse Woods with a Native American group leader, or something similar. This item should be considered a preliminary discussion, and ultimately the Committee should return to it in the coming months as we prepare for 2026 events.

**Mr. Vogt** agreed and suggested that a "Taste of Rolling Meadows" at one of the existing events would be a selling point to attract more people. **Member Gill** suggested that a Rolling Meadows Restaurant Passport could be a good way to promote the establishments in town.

#### **Other Discussion:**

**Mr. Vogt** said that the final earnings from the Duck Race was \$1519.33, and thanked the Committee for their help and contribution. **Member Gill** asked if there was an escrow account statement that the Committee could review to stay on top of their spending and planning. **P/MA Savage** said that there was just under \$12,000 at the beginning of the year, and the Committee spent about \$800 on seeds and \$1,300 on the Bike Party.

**Member Gill** suggested that for the next year of seed distribution, there should be a QR code on the packaging so that residents can upload pictures. This would help the City monitor the growth of natives in town, and help support and market small prairie restoration.

**Adjournment**

**Chair Trevor** motioned to adjourn. All voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

## Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee

### Meeting Minutes

12/8/2025 at 5:00 at City Hall Council Chambers

**1. Call to Order** by **Chairperson Michael Kohler** at 5:10 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Chair Michael Koehler, Maggie Trevor, Karen Gill, Joan Thomas, Raymond Mau, Bonnie Haferkamp

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Robert Savage (Planner and Management Analyst), Alysse Dahlgren, Fred Vogt.

#### **3. Minutes Approval**

There was no approval of minutes.

#### **4. Public Comment**

At the invitation of the Chair, **Joseph Macarthur** addressed the Environmental Committee: I am asking for support with an ongoing issue regarding a flood hazard area on my property at 6006 Highland Drive. The flood area on my property is within an easement which I believe to be under the maintenance responsibility of the City and MWRD; this is supported by the numerous documents that I have brought to the Committee. The flooding and drainage issues on the property are a result of stormwater redirection into the wetland and creek, and I believe that the persistent flood issues are a result of these being constructed. Rolling Meadows has an erosion and sediment control maintenance obligation for this encroachment. I have long been negotiating the maintenance of the wetland with Public Works, the City, MWRD, Palatine, and the Army Corps of Engineers among others, but to no effect and the case has been effectively closed by all of the relevant authorities that I have issued complaint to, though it is still an issue. I'm asking the Committee and Chair Koehler to issue support for the maintenance of the wetland, that the City is obligated to do; I'm proposing that this be through support for a federal preservation grant that would require me to provide an in-kind contribution, the easement areas, which would unlock approximately \$450,000 towards approximately \$1 million in available grants to conduct the site work.

#### **5. New Business**

##### **a. Sustainability Plan Update**

**P/MA Savage** informed the Committee of the upcoming Sustainability Plan annual update that will be presented to the Committee of the Whole, December 16 2025. The presentation will be as follows:

- Background and development process of the Sustainability Plan; 42 short term goals that should be completed within three years after adoption.
- Updated status of completion; the City has completed 25 goals, has 19 in progress, and has 3 remaining with no action.
- Larger projects included the completion of the Electric Vehicle Readiness Program, for which the City received a Gold Designation and won an award for Zoning Code Excellence. The program encompassed zoning policy, communications and engagement, permitting and inspections, accessibility and availability, among other topics.
- Installation of 6 public EV chargers at City Hall.
- The completion and adoption of the Kirchoff Road Corridor Study, which promotes higher density and more active mixed-use development along Kirchoff Road, and opens significant opportunities for economic development. All three opportunity sites are pending redevelopment in near future.

- The City retained MC2 to administer the electric aggregation program, for which the City is receiving Renewable Energy Certificates for municipal electricity use.
- The City endorsed MC2 to operate a Community Solar Program, where residents can subscribe to off-site solar energy farms, who deliver energy into the grid, and be discounted on their electric bill.
- The Environmental Committee expanded their event series, beginning “Sustainability Saturdays”, which will occur ~3 times per year to promote and advocate for sustainability topics. Future events may include other Sustainability Plan goals related to ecology, multiculturalism, and social sustainability.
- The City adopted new landscaping regulations that support an enhanced natural environment around commercial development, including provisions that require native landscaping and increased species biodiversity.
- Residential landscaping code has been updated to encourage native gardening and prairie restoration.
- The City removed parking ratio requirements for most land uses, which enables increased infill development and productive land uses.
- The three “No Action” items are scheduled for progress in year 2026, with (1) amendments to the City’s subdivision regulations; (2) assessing ways in which the RMEC can raise awareness of cultural traditions, and; (3) monitoring state level legislation for a plastic bag ban.
- Large projects for 2026 includes the completion of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Study, which the City has recently kicked-off with technical support from CMAP; achieving SolSmart Designation; adopting new Subdivision regulations, and; participating in the Community Rating System for flood plain management that meets or exceeds the National Flood Insurance Program.
- While still under revision, staff will seek direction for the goal MO-2: Rolling Meadows will expand the use of smart technology to manage operations that have a sustainability impact. This is a very broad category of technologies, many of which may have limited utility or benefit to the City, however some are utilized by the City at present and we will continue to investigate other uses and technologies in the future. Staff would like direction on what target areas would be suitable, and when this item could be marked as complete.

**Member Trevor** noted that she had concerns about the RMEC’s position and authority to engage in raising awareness of diverse cultural traditions or activities related to aging in place, for instance, given the makeup, lack of expertise, and general activities of the Committee. **P/MA Savage** said that it would not be solely the responsibility of the Committee, but that it would be useful to look at partner organizations, other City events, such as those run by Human Services, to see how we could contribute, facilitate, and promote these events.

**Chair Koehler** said that it may be useful to include a slide that contains the designations and awards that the City has accumulated, or to make mention of other designations that might be coming in the future, which could include Tree City Award, Bird City, Monarch Pledge, Bicycle Friendly Communities, etc.

**Chair Koehler** also said that there may be an opportunity to discuss flood control measures that the City has worked on, and the status of the Backyard Drainage Assistance Program.

**Chair Koehler** also noted that it would be worth engaging with Former Mayor Gallo regarding the Smart City initiatives, as he works closely with that sector and was a key figure in advocating its presence in the Plan.

#### **b. 2026 RMEC work plan and event schedule**

**P/MA Savage** presented the draft 2026 event schedule, noting that it also included additional and optional inclusions for events that the RMEC may contribute to, among the typical annual RMEC events.

- Human Services are hosting an aging in place event in April, which the RMEC may be able to help facilitate or look for ways to engage with.
- Earth Day, April 22, will be called “Planet vs. Plastic”. The Committee may discuss ways to integrate this theme into the event.
- City Forester, Graham Strebler, will be assessing locations that might be suitable for Bur Oak planting for Arbor Day.
- The schedule contains three Sustainability Saturdays events; the only date that is locked in will be Bike Party, now a recurring annual event, on September 26.
- National Night (Aug 4) out and Block Party (June 5) are both optional events if the Committee wishes to contribute or organize any engagement opportunities for these.

**P/MA Savage** provided a list of Sustainability Plan Goals that the Committee should refer to for future event and engagement planning in 2026, noting that as SC-4 “Rolling Meadows will raise awareness of diverse cultural traditions” was a “No Action” item, and should be treated as a priority for event planning in the coming year.

The Communications plan from 2025 was not completed in full, with three publications remaining unfinished. The Committee could reconsider if and how this engagement strategy should be pursued in 2026.

## **6. Old Business**

There was no old business

## **Adjournment**

**Chair Koehler** motioned to adjourn. All voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

## Staff Memorandum

**From:** Robert Savage, Planner and Management Analyst  
**To:** Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee (RMEC)  
**RE:** Special Meeting Agenda for October, 2025  
**Meeting Date:** December 9, 2025

### Item 5.a

The Environmental Committee 2026 event schedule is attached below. Notably, several additions to the 2025 calendar have been added in red. The Committee can consider increased involvement in these City events to further the Sustainability Plan goals, community engagement, and environmental advocacy. Involvement in these events is optional and will depend on members' ability to commit time and resources to the events.

The Plan goals that are most relevant to the event participation are listed below. The Committee should

2026 Event Schedule		
Event Name	Date	Event Ideas/Notes
Prairie Burn	March __, 2026	
Human Services Resource Fair, aging in place	April 3, 2026	SC-2: Giveaways, AARP, Veterans Organizations, Disability Support Orgs, discount veterinary services. Ideas: Seed giveaway, gardening ideas, outdoor recreation advice, partner with park district?
Earth Day (Wednesday) "Planet vs. Plastic"	April 22, 2026	W-4, C-5: Ideas: SWANCC, SWALCO - <a href="#">Feed the Cart?</a>
Arbor Day Celebration, Willow Bend	April 24, 2026	L-7, W-4: TBA
Arbor Day Cleanup and Planting, RMPD	April 25, 2026	L-7, W-4: Bur Oak Planting, pending G. Strebler.
Human Services Family Services Day	Saturday May 9	Promotion, participation, stall/booth, seeds - Ask HS for direction
Sustainability Saturdays	TBA	ED-4, SC-4 Ideas: Exploring central Asian culture and cuisine - Lagman House; Native history/crafts (AIAI?)
Block Party	Friday, June 5	Booth: Plant/seed sale, fundraiser?
Sustainability Saturdays	June __, 2026	Ideas: Community garage sale w/ RMEC plant and seed sale (WR-4)
Sustainability Saturdays: Bike Party	September 26, 2026	Location ideas: Firehouse uncertain.
Duck Race Sales	June __, 2026	
National Night Out	Tuesday, August 4 2026	
Duck Race Event	September __, 2026	
Pumpkin Compost Collection	November ____, 2026	

discuss event concepts that include activities related to the following:

<b>ED-4</b>	<i>Rolling Meadows will promote local goods and services.</i>	<b>C-5</b>	<i>Rolling Meadows will educate the public about climate change.</i>
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<b>L-7</b>	<i>Rolling Meadows will raise community awareness of native and sustainable landscaping.</i>	<b>E-4</b>	<i>Rolling Meadows will raise community awareness of energy efficiency programs and clean energy options.</i>
<b>M-6</b>	<i>Rolling Meadows will educate the public on alternative transportation and fuels.</i>	<b>SC-2</b>	<i>Rolling Meadows will plan its programs and policies to be a community welcoming of persons of all ages.</i>
<b>W-4</b>	<i>Rolling Meadows will educate and provide supports to residents regarding water conservation and sustainable stormwater management.</i>	<b>SC-4</b>	<b><i>Rolling Meadows will raise awareness of diverse cultural traditions*.</i></b>
<b>WR-4</b>	<i>Rolling Meadows will educate the public about waste and recycling.</i>		<i>*SC-4 has a “No Action” status at this time, and should be discussed as a priority for event planning through 2026.</i>

### 5.b Communications Tasks

The 2025 communications plan involved several short form articles that were included in the City’s newsletter; social media releases, and; communications at RMEC events. Three items from this list remain incomplete as of January 2026. The Committee should discuss new topics, strategies, and possible deletions of any items that are no longer pressing or relevant.

The City’s Newsletter has undergone some format changes for 2026, and will now a quarterly longer-format publication. Final publication dates are expected to be relayed to staff in early January, 2026, and articles will need to be submitted to staff approximately 4-6 weeks before release to allow time for copy editing and formatting.

#### 2025

Distribution month and media	Person Responsible	Topic
March, Newsletter*	Robert Savage	Downspout disconnection
April, in field	Karen Gill	Arbor Day
April, Newsletter	Joan Thomas	Prairie Burn Information
June, Newsletter	TBA	Native and Invasive Species
TBA Newsletter	Michael Koehler	Climate and extreme weather
TBA, Newsletter	Maggie Trevor (Due 4/7/25)	Coal Tar Sealants
November, Newsletter	Maggie Trevor	Forest management

#### 2026

Quarter	Author	Topic
Q1: Feb		
Q2: April		
Q3: July		
Q4: Oct		
Other Social Media Releases		