



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

City Council Chambers
3600 Kirchoff Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Thursday, February 5, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order.**
2. **Roll Call/Declaration of a Quorum:**
 - Chair Michael Koehler, Maggie Trevor, Ray Mau, Karen Gill, Bonnie Haferkamp, Joannie Thomas, Vacant.
3. **Approval of Minutes :** January 8, 2026
4. **Pending Business :** None
5. **New Business :**
 - a. Approval of Purchase of "Illinois Native Monarch Habitat Seed Mix"
6. **Old Business :**
 - a. 2026 Event Planning and Communications Tasks
 - b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Study Update
7. **Other Discussion:**
 - a. Comprehensive Plan Updates: Upcoming modifications to the Future Land Use Map and Subarea Plans for the Algonquin Road and Golf Road corridors.
 - b. SolSmart Designation
8. **Public Comment.** During this time, members of the public may address the PZC regarding any topic within the PZC's purview that is not elsewhere on the agenda.
9. **Motion to Adjourn.**

Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee

Meeting Minutes

1/8/2026 at 6:00 at City Hall Council Chambers

1. **Call to Order** by **Planner and Management Analyst Robert Savage** at 6:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 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, Roxane Summer.

P/MA Savage requested a motion to nominate Member Trevor as the interim chair for the meeting.

Member Gill made the motion, **Member Mau** seconded. All voted yes by voice vote.

3. Minutes Approval

Interim Chair (IC) Trevor requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the January 9, 2025 RMEC Meeting. **Member Gill** noted to change the title date to January 9th, rather than 8th. **Member Mau** made the motion, **Member Haferkamp** seconded the motion. All voted yes by voice vote.

IC Trevor requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the October 2, 2025 RMEC Meeting. **Member Gill** noted to change the title date to January 9th, rather than 8th. **Member Mau** made the motion, **Member Haferkamp** seconded the motion. All voted yes by voice vote.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. New Business

a. 2026 Environmental Committee Work Plan and Scheduling

P/MA Savage presented a draft schedule of events for 2026, including the standing annual events and several additional events that the Committee could discuss volunteering or contributing towards.

- i. **Prairie Burn Event:** March (undetermined date). **P/MA Savage** asked if there were any dates locked in. **Member Gill** said that we should check in with Pete Jackson to confirm, as the date often shifts due to weather.
- ii. **Human Services Recourse Fair:** April 3. **P/MA Savage** said that there could be an opportunity to collaborate with human resources and give out seeds and native planting advice, or contribute to the Human Services Energy Saving Device Giveaway. **IC Trevor** noted that the County would potentially be able to lend support, and directed for Director Nieves to contact her to discuss the Property After Death services. **Member Gill** suggested that the Garden Club could also be involved, or potentially members of the community garden who could advertise any open garden plots.
- iii. **Earth Day:** April 22 (Wednesday). **P/MA Savage** noted that the theme for 2026 was "Planet VS Plastic", and suggested that the City could amplify the SWALCO "Feed the Loop" marketing campaign, as a standalone event might not be practical mid-week. The Committee unanimously agreed.
- iv. **Arbor Day (Willow Bend):** April 24. **Member Thomas** said that she would update, as nothing is planned yet.
- v. **Arbor Day:** April 25. **P/MA Savage** said that there had been some internal discussions about the Park District, Public Works, and the City collaborating on an effort to plant native Bur Oaks to restore some native oak habitat near Kimball Hill or South Salk Parks. **Member Gill** said that it

could also be a good opportunity to work on the Earth Day theme and do some plastic waste removal from the parks and creek, and said that staff should coordinate with Nick Troy and confirm the scope of the event.

- vi. **Human Services Family Services Day:** May 9. **P/MA Savage** asked the Committee if there was any interest in attending this event. **IC Trevor** said that the County may be able to support this event also, and that the Committee could host a plant and seed giveaway.
- vii. **Sustainability Saturdays:** Dates TBA. **P/MA Savage** said that there had been some internal discussion of approaching one of the international restaurants in town to host a cooking demonstration or class and hosting a lunch, which could be a ticketed event that would support multiple Sustainability Plan goals. Another idea was to approach a Chicagoland Native American Indian organization to host a class or lecture on the Native history of Rolling Meadows, local ecology, or other event. **IC Trevor** noted that the Committee could also approach the Forest Preserve District who might be able to host an event on urban forestry and restoration. Other ideas also included a community garage sale and plant sale.
- viii. **Bike Party:** September 19. **P/MA Savage** said that the use of the Fire Station is not guaranteed due to the upcoming sale of the property, and the Committee should discuss alternative locations. **Mr. Vogt** said that perhaps the Library parking lot would be possible, or alternatively a section of the Jewel Parking Lot if we could coordinate with the owner.
- ix. **Block Party:** June 5. **Mr. Vogt** said that he and Member Gill would distribute Duck Race tickets there, and it would also be a good opportunity for more seed giveaways. **Member Gill** agreed.
- x. **National Night Out:** August 4. **Mr. Vogt** said that he and Member Gill would distribute Duck Race tickets there, and it would also be a good opportunity for more seed giveaways.
- xi. **Duck Race:** **Mr. Vogt** said that there had been some discussion about shifting the date to not coincide with Fridays Rock, but it might be best to host in on that day to ensure that there would be a good crowd. We're deciding on the time, but likely to be around 4:00 to 5:00PM.

b. Communications Tasks.

P/MA Savage recapped the communications tasks from 2025, noting that there were three newsletter items that were not completed. The Committee should discuss whether these items should be revisited for 2026, or if new topics could be addressed instead.

- **Member Thomas** said that she would write a short article about Bur Oak restoration for the April Newsletter, which would tie in nicely with the Arbor Day event.
- **P/MA Savage** said that we should revisit the item on Climate and Extreme Weather, that Chair Koehler had intended to write. This could be for the July Issue.
- **IC Trevor** said that she could write a piece on urban forestry and Busse woods for the October issue.
- **Alysse Dahlgren** said that she would be happy to contribute short social media releases on buckthorn removal and native gardening techniques throughout the year.

6. Old Business

There was no old business

7. Other Discussion

Fred Vogt said that the monument seal from City Hall had been successfully removed and installed at the History Museum, on the bike lane side of the building. The museum was looking at different options to install landscaping around the sign, and would welcome help from the Committee to design and install landscaping.

Adjournment

IC Trevor motioned to adjourn. All voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.

Staff Memorandum

From: Robert Savage, Planner and Management Analyst
To: Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee (RMEC)
RE: Meeting Agenda for February, 2026
Meeting Date: February 3, 2026

5.a

Purchase Approval for Seed Mix

Staff have obtained a quote from Millburn Seeds (FKA “Renovo Seeds”) for Illinois Native Monarch Habitat Seed Mix for \$880 (same price as 2025, despite retail price increases). This, as well as the quantity left over from 2025, should produce upwards of 700 sample bags to distribute for 2026.

Requested action: The Committee should vote on the approval of funds to purchase Monarch Habitat Seeds, not to exceed \$1,000.

Item 6.a

Event Schedule

The Environmental Committee 2026 event schedule is attached below with updates of prospective event details. The Committee should discuss any modifications to the proposed calendar, and in particular provide direction for staff to pursue engagement with any third-party organizations for upcoming Sustainability Saturdays events.

2026 Event Schedule			
Event	Date	Notes	Updates
Prairie Burn	March __, 2026	Event Ideas/Notes	P/MA Savage contacted Pete Jackson to provide details and updates.
Human Services Resource Fair, aging in place	April 3 25, 2026	This event has been rescheduled to April 25, which will coincide with Arbor Day events. If member Trevor wishes, HS Director Nieves would still encourage Cook County	Item will be deleted for future calendar updates

		resources to be present at this event.	
Earth Day (Wednesday) "Planet vs. Plastic "	April 22, 2026	W-4, C-5: Ideas: SWANCC, SWALCO - Feed the Cart?	P/MA Savage is requesting marketing material from SWALCO to coordinate a Feed the Cart media release
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.	Meeting with Park District leadership and Graham Strebler to coordinate Bur Oak Planting, ~Feb
Human Services Family Services Day	Saturday May 9	Promotion, participation, stall/booth, seeds - Ask HS for direction	Dr. Nieves requests an RMEC stand, seed giveaway, native planting guides and recommendations.
Sustainability Saturdays	TBA	ED-4, SC-4 Ideas: Exploring central Asian culture and cuisine - Lagman House; Native history/crafts (AIAI?)	Paz (Lagman House) has shown interest in hosting an event, meeting TBA.
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)	The City Manager's office has expressed interest in hosting a vintage, handmade, and farmers market event in late June, pending the RMEC's interest. Other Options discussed: CC Forest Preserve lecture; Native American History event - to be discussed.
Sustainability Saturdays: Bike Party	September 26, 2026	Location ideas: Firehouse uncertain.	The new owner of the Firehouse has extended an invitation to use the Facility, but there may be ongoing construction. The alternative location is likely City Hall Parking lot.
Duck Race Sales	June __, 2026		
National Night Out	Tuesday, August 4 2026		Fred Vogt, Karen Gill to sell Duck Race Tickets; seed giveaway table.
Duck Race Event	September 26, 2026		Fred Vogt: Saturday 4-5PM time, confirm with Lori

The Plan goals that are most relevant to the event participation are listed below. The Committee should discuss event concepts that include activities related to the following:

ED-4	<i>Rolling Meadows will promote local goods and services.</i>	C-5	<i>Rolling Meadows will educate the public about climate change.</i>
L-7	<i>Rolling Meadows will raise community awareness of native and sustainable landscaping.</i>	E-4	<i>Rolling Meadows will raise community awareness of energy efficiency programs and clean energy options.</i>
M-6	<i>Rolling Meadows will educate the public on alternative transportation and fuels.</i>	SC-2	<i>Rolling Meadows will plan its programs and policies to be a community welcoming of persons of all ages.</i>
W-4	<i>Rolling Meadows will educate and provide supports to residents regarding water conservation and sustainable stormwater management.</i>	SC-4	<i>Rolling Meadows will raise awareness of diverse cultural traditions*.</i>

WR-4	<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>
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Communications Tasks

The proposed schedule of educational releases is below:

The City's Newsletter has undergone some format changes for 2026, and will now be 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.

2026

Quarter	Author	Topic
Q2: April	Joannie Mitchell	Burr Oak Habitat, Arbor Day, Natives
Q3: July	Michael Koehler	Climate and extreme weather
Q4: Oct	Maggie Trevor	Forest management/Restoration, Busse Woods,
Other Social Media Releases	Alysse	Buckthorn removal, native planting techniques

6.b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Study Update

The City recently had a kick-off meeting with staff from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning staff who are providing the technical assistance for preparing the Rolling Meadows City-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Staff have been informed that the existing conditions report phase is already underway, with preliminary data collection, mapping, and analysis taking place by CMAP.

- Staff are expecting community engagement opportunities to coincide with many of the events listed in 6.a, and will update the Committee accordingly when more details are known. If members have suggestions as to how best to incorporate engagement at any of these events, please discuss.
- A preliminary steering committee list has been selected, which will include a diverse selection of residents, students, business owners, and Park and Library leadership.

7. Other Discussion and Updates

a. Comprehensive Plan Updates : Informational Only.

Staff are preparing two separate amendments to the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan related to the Algonquin Road and Golf Road subareas to enable the future land use maps and plans best reflect the market changes in commercial, office, and residential real estate trends within these subareas.

- The City is preparing to adopt two TIF Districts along the Algonquin Road Corridor with the expectation that there it might improve redevelopment conditions for key sites that have undergone disinvestment and neglect in recent years. The proposed sites include Keystone Court, Crossroads of Commerce (Algonquin and IL53), Holidome/Holiday Inn, and Southland Shopping Center.

- The Golf Road Corridor has undergone several important land use transitions in recent years, including several corporate consolidations (AJ Gallagher); potential Data Center Development (Former Atrium Site); the Pacifica redevelopment, and; a long term diminishment of office occupancy which may promote either residential, commercial, or mixed-use development in certain office locations.

b. SolSmart Designation : Informational Only

The City has recently completed the SolSmart program - a technical assistance program operated by the Department of Energy that assists municipalities in adopting standardized best practices for residential and small-scale commercial solar development. The program lends assistance in developing appropriate zoning policies; developing permitting and inspections frameworks; and improving market development and community engagement to incentivize and prioritize solar installation within the City.

The City is proud to announce that it completed the program with a **Gold** designation, representing the adoption of best practices across these implementation areas.