



**Minutes of the
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board Meeting
January 8, 2025
Avon Lake Public Library, Parke Conference Room**

The Environmental Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB) meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Chair Witt presiding shortly after Vice Chair McCormick began.

Present: Chair Malachi Witt (6:33); Citizen Members Amy Oliver, Marty Patton, and Terry Wyrock; Industry Member and Vice-Chair Mike McCormick (Applied Specialties, LLC); Ward-1 Councilman Rob Shahmir; and Clerk of Council Valerie Rosmarin.

Also Present: Residents Gary Cole, Frank Matessi, Gerald Phillips, Beth Wallace, and William Zimmerman.

Absent: Citizen Members Rita George, Kayla Goodwin, Sam Naumann, and Terry Robison; Industry Members Michelle Hall (Ford Motor Company), Tom Sulzer (Avient™), and Ron Spears (Lubrizol Corp.) and David Messinger (Vestolit).

INDUSTRY MEMBER UPDATES

Applied Specialties, LLC

Vice-Chair McCormick reported that Applied Specialties was sold on December 16, 2024, to [Tidal Vision](#) of Seattle, Washington.

- 53 employees to 278 employees; by end of 2025 wants over 400
- Proposed public share company

Chair Witt arrived at 6:33 p.m. and started a discussion on possibly meeting again in January when there's a quorum to vote on a budget, minutes, and more.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2025 Budget

Chair Witt passed out a proposed budget to show how funds might be allocated in 2025. He spoke about the 2024 budget items and why he left some off for the coming year.

- \$500 allocated for 100 redbud tree saplings for the next Garden Club Sale;

- \$750 allocated for the EAAB Student Program, an annual scholarship, [Avon Lake City Schools Foundation](#);
- Donation to Environmentally Speaking and Discovery Works;
- Marketing;
- Digital storage space; and
- Event(s).

Councilman Shahmir suggested within the first quarter, EAAB develop a plan/strategy for what each expenditure will look like, where it's going, and what the goals are.

- The interaction with the Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club is always successful.
- Forward a letter via email to acknowledge the annual giving to the Avon Lake City Schools Foundation for 2025 as soon as possible.

Chair Witt asked for help to decide where the budget money should be allocated. He suggested other Board Members, possibly Rita George and Kayla Goodwin, meet to discuss, strategize, and come up with estimates for printed materials, advertising, or mailers to be used to market the Board.

- Mrs. Oliver reminded everyone of what was discussed at a past meeting: defining the goals of the Board. She thought it was important to decide that before spending marketing dollars.
- Chair Witt agreed with Mrs. Oliver.

Chair Witt stated he had never seen dedicated recycling containers at City events.

- Mr. Wyrock expressed his support for having recycling containers at City events and shared about past attempts through the Public Works Department that failed because they didn't want to spend the money.

Brief discussions centered on topics of recycling containers, marketing, goals, mission statement, and bylaws.

Vice-Chair McCormick raised the point that the current mission has changed since the original mission was established. After [BF Goodrich](#) exploded, the EAAB was created to address citizen concerns about other businesses exploding.

- Focus is now on all environmental issues and sustainability.

Gerald Phillips, Avon Lake, commented on what was emphasized in the budget; he liked the idea of letting go of the idea of partnerships to focus on the EAAB as an entity. He was in favor of recycling containers at events and mentioned getting [Kimble](#) involved. The City of Avon has a recycling coordinator, but he didn't know of one for the City of Avon Lake. He suggested that EAAB could take on that role.

- Chair Witt said he would email Public Works Director Jon Liskovec about this.
- Clerk of Council Rosmarin stated that it was in Kimble's contract to have recycling at events.
- After the Solar Eclipse Event, containers were left and made available for EAAB to use during the Homecoming Event.

- Chair Witt said the Lake House has dedicated garbage cans for events held there but not dedicated recycling containers.
 - Clerk of Council Rosmarin mentioned the issue of having to sort trash because people don't dispose of items into the correct containers.
 - Mr. Wyrock proposed that recycling containers be put in all the City Parks with the EAAB logo fixed on them.

Brief discussions centered on getting the Public Works Department involved, managing recycling containers, who used to attend EAAB meetings, and a perceived lack of communication with those above EAAB.

Mrs. Oliver offered to help with marketing ideas but made it clear that she didn't want to head it up.

Vice-Chair McCormick reiterated that EAAB needs to meet with Public Works Director Liskovec, and Councilman Shahmir said he would bring it up at the next Communications, Environmental, and Recreational Programming (CERP) meeting.

Vice-Chair McCormick brought up Mr. Phillip's suggestion from the last meeting about the establishment of a 501(c)(3) to get donations to EAAB.

- Mr. Phillips, Avon Lake, commented on holding off on setting up a non-profit until the group has a plan, strategy, and goals. He liked the recycling bin idea and added the idea of local businesses donating money to the EAAB to advertise their names on the bins, too.

Brief discussions centered on fundraising, what it takes to set up a 501(c)(3), and if Council approval was needed.

Mr. Wyrock declared the library venue was established to assist Councilman Shahmir with technology to make presentations about the former Power Plant. Now that the former Power Plant has been demolished, he would like EAAB meetings to relocate permanently back to the Lake House to allow room for expansion.

- There was further discussion and unanimous agreement on changing the venue permanently back to the Lake House beginning in February.

Google Workspace Update

Chair Witt mentioned the Brownfield Committee lawsuit and claimed that the EAAB was not permitted to use the City's resources.

- Mr. Phillips, Avon Lake, questioned why EAAB couldn't use City resources. He said it was in the Codified Ordinance that they are an organization.
 - Chair Witt's response was that was the answer he had been given by Council President Fenderbosch; EAAB are not employees.

Councilman Shahmir said it was his understanding that it was a security issue with electronic media and outside server access. He encouraged them to dig deeper.

Clerk of Council Rosmarin asked Mr. Witt what type of access he was looking for because no other Board or Commission Members have City email addresses.

- Chair Witt said as Board Members and Chairpeople change, they lack continuity for collecting and sharing documents, the work they've done, and all the email communications. He claimed that things get completely lost because they are using personal email and personal documents; there is no effective transition to pass on all emails.
 - Clerk of Council Rosmarin responded that the continuity is with the Clerk of Council's office, as they are always copied on all EAAB emails.

A brief discussion was held on using Google Drive for emails and documents, taking control of the Board's Facebook Page, and voting on this when they have a quorum.

Councilman Shahmir responded to a question related to the former Power Plant's recent implosion and whether the underground tunnels would still be intact, stating that there was no information on the subterranean structures.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Reports

Councilman Shahmir reported there was a modeling project undertaken by the City utilizing Verdantas, which simulated how clouds, plumes, and dust would migrate out of the area once an implosion took place.

- He presented a diagram and elaborated on wind direction and simulations. Based on wind direction predictions, Councilman Shahmir had emailed the Mayor and Council his recommendation to hold off on the implosion.
- He displayed Avon Lake Environmental Redevelopment Group's (ALERG) post-implosion report and pointed out the six red dots on the periphery where their monitoring stations were set up.
- He pointed out the date of Thursday, December 19, and a wind direction of S/SE, saying it was erroneous. Wind directions were N/NW, so they utilized the wrong nomenclature in the drawing.
- He showed images of the implosion taken from a drone that showed the movement of the plume and elaborated on the images.
- He showed images of someone's deck covered with soot and dust.
- He mentioned the free carwashes offered by ALERG.
- He mentioned Westview Elementary School and Troy Intermediate School near the impacted area and that it was unknown what controls were put in to isolate their air filtration system.
- In his opinion, the implosion was a mistake; the City acquiesced to ALERG; it needs to be investigated further; and the issue with the former Power Plant is not over.

Councilman Shahmir responded to Mr. Wyrock's question about particulate matter and the water intake. He then responded to someone's comment about how far the cloud traveled, stating that he used their data.

- Mr. Phillips, Avon Lake, shared his experience with a distinct burnt odor as he drove his car in the vicinity of the implosion, east of Moore Road.
- Councilman Shahmir shared about residents having asthmatic symptoms the morning of the implosion while they were out walking their dogs.

Councilman Shahmir reported that some concerned residents have reached out and/or will reach out to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Brief discussions and comments took place, sometimes overlapping simultaneously, on the height of the plume, air dispersion modeling, wind direction, reasons the implosion was said to not have been delayed related to dynamite charges set, waiting for the Verdantas report, and the demolition ordinance that still hasn't passed.

Councilman Shahmir offered to stay after to answer additional questions. He shared that he has collected addresses of residents who had soot after the implosion and is mapping with photographic evidence and collection of data. He recommended that residents could contact the EPA with concerns about what was in the soot.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Submitted by Ramona Boggins, Deputy Clerk of Council