



**Minutes of the
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board Meeting
May 1, 2025
The Lake House, 32756 Lake Road**

The Environmental Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB) meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. with Chair McCormick presiding.

Present: Citizen Members Rita George, Kayla Goodwin (6:35), Amy Oliver, Marty Patton, Terry Robison, and Terry Wyrock; Industry Members Chair Mike McCormick (Applied Specialties, LLC), Michelle Hall (Ford Motor Company), and Ron Spears (Lubrizol Corp.); Ex-Officio Members Ward-1 Councilman Rob Shahmir and Mayor Mark Spaetzel (7:08); and Director of Finance Designee Deputy Clerk of Council Ramona Boggins.

Also Present: Residents Gary Cole, Mark Hopka, Martin Matuszak, Gerald Phillips, Jon Potrzeba, and William Zimmerman.

Absent: Industry Members Tom Sulzer (Avient™) and David Messinger (Vestolit).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 5, 2025, EAAB meeting minutes were unanimously approved as prepared.

INDUSTRY MEMBER UPDATES

Applied Specialties, LLC

Chair McCormick reported that they are still in a transitional phase with the parent company, [Tidal Vision](#), which makes water treatment chemicals using [chitosan](#).

Ford Motor Company

Ms. Hall reported that the new building has been turned over; it's currently empty. They are working on their Title-V Plantwide Applicability Limit (PAL) permit renewal with the northeast district office of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

- There was a brief discussion about new rules related to the abatement system and PM_{2.5}¹.
- They are working on upgrading and replacing dock heaters/comfort heaters.

¹ [Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.](#)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance and Bylaws

Motion: Chair McCormick moved to table this item and resume the discussion after summer. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2025 Budget Updates

Chair McCormick reported that Council approved the 2025 Budget for \$5,250.

Motion: Chair McCormick moved to remove the purchase of a domain name, email, and digital storage from the budget and allocate those funds for other usage. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair McCormick explained the reasons for the change and that the \$144 allocated for Email and Digital Storage and the \$75 allocated for Purchase Domain name AvonLake.eco will move to Unallocated General Funds.

2025 Strategic Plan and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Chair McCormick initiated a discussion on the draft document titled *Environmental Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB) 2025 Strategic Plan*. He first addressed *Goal 1: Enhance Community Education and Engagement, Objective 1.2: Foster partnerships with local schools and organizations*.

Action: Chair McCormick requested a five-minute presentation from each industry member at the June meeting. They are to present what the company does/produces and how they are involved in the community.

Avon Lake City School Foundation (ALCSF) Green Scholarship Program

Councilman Shahmir reported on the ALCSF partnership/scholarship initiative.

- He will send an email to the organization and propose a meeting.
- There was a brief discussion about the proposed projects, the amount of the scholarship, and the source of the funds.
- Ms. Hall requested to be copied on the emails about this matter.
- There was additional discussion about project ideas, mentoring, and grade levels that would be eligible.
- Deputy Clerk of Council Boggins suggested a detailed document outlining the program objectives so anyone can follow through, even when leadership or members change.

Chair McCormick tabled Marketing and Rebranding, *Objective 1.1*, until the next meeting. He then addressed *Goal 2: Promote Sustainable Practices in Avon Lake, Objective 2.1: Improve recycling and waste reduction efforts*.

Councilman Shahmir initiated a discussion on whether changing the name of the EAAB was, in fact, on the table.

- There was no support from the Board on changing the name.
- Reference to the name change was initiated by former Chair Malachi Witt.

Recycling Solid Waste Program - Parks/Events - Building Commission

Chair McCormick tabled this matter until the next meeting.

2025 Deer Culling Program

The City's website has a link to the [2025 Deer Control Survey](#) that will be available until June 30, 2025. There was a brief discussion on the number² of deer that have already been culled and the locations.

Green Mobility Planning Toward Integrated Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Ms. Oliver reported on the history of the initiative and the results of her meeting with Recreation Director Erin Fach and Public Works Director Jon Liskovec. Focus was on how to connect Overlook Park and the 45s, Ilg Family Park, the Elementary Schools, retail areas, the Lorain County Metropark, and the High School.

- Connections over Jaycox Road and Lear Road are needed.
- The most affordable options to connect areas are paint and signage.
- Process, timeline, engineering, and funding options were briefly discussed.

EAAB Storage Box Update

Chair McCormick announced that the EAAB storage box had been discovered, and he will contact the City about obtaining it and report an update at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Vacancies - Review Applicants

Chair McCormick reported that he and Councilman Shahmir will be interviewing some of the applicants that evening, after the EAAB meeting.

- Five residents have submitted letters of interest.

Environmental Programs at the Library

Chair McCormick reported that this will commence in the fall.

Action: Chair McCormick requested that names and contact information of people who

² The March 24, 2025, Communications, Environmental, and Recreational Programming Committee meeting minutes contain the statistics of the 2025 Deer Culling Program; 40 deer were tagged.

could be speakers on relevant environmental topics be emailed to him so he can have a list to share at the next meeting.

Ohio Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC) Meeting on May 21 in Columbus

Chair McCormick reported that Council President Jennifer Fenderbosch will be attending and offered to carpool. Anyone interested should email Chair McCormick to coordinate transportation.

- Councilman Shahmir shared that there will also be a webinar available for those who may not be able to attend in person.

Window Strike Prevention Initiative

Chair McCormick reported that Lorain County Community College is promoting this initiative, and more information is in the agenda pack.

Composting

Chair McCormick announced there was information on composting in the agenda pack.

Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club Plant Sale

Chair McCormick announced there was information on the annual plant sale happening on May 10 in the agenda pack.

Keep Lorain County Beautiful Cleanup Day

Chair McCormick announced there was information on the annual cleanup day happening on May 17 in the agenda pack.

- There was a discussion on where to meet, the history of the event, who had plans for participating, and taking pictures to promote the EAAB.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Councilman Shahmir reported an update on the environmental issue with an Aqua Marine Luxury Apartments resident, and a brief discussion followed.

- Air filters need to be collected from the residence and tested.

Action: Chair McCormick will speak with Clerk of Council Valerie Rosmarin about the budgeted donations of \$250 to the Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club for the Monarch Butterfly Project, the purchase of \$500 of trees for the Tree Commission, and the \$1,000 donation to the Public Works Department for a Park Recycling Pilot Program (when details are finalized).

Ms. Hall reported that Ford Motor Company has a new Community Relations Department, and they are looking for ways to engage with the community and provide

sustainability and environmental action support.

- Chair McCormick suggested designated recycling barrels. He will reach out to PW Director Liskovec and Mayor Spaetzel before contacting Ms. Hall about possible ways to involve the EAAB and present at the next meeting.
- There was a discussion on composting and whether Ford could support a Citywide program and/or a program with the Schools.
 - Ms. Hall shared that Ford uses Barnes Nursery in Huron for their composting and is looking to expand their program internally.

Mr. Wyrock announced that the EAAB will be at the Avon-on-the-Lake Plant Sale in the parking lot of the Goddard School. He and Mr. Robison were involved in organizing the event and will be passing out redbud saplings and Monarch butterfly rescue kits.

Chair McCormick would like to have subcommittees created after the vacancies are filled on the EAAB.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gerald Phillips, Avon Lake, commented on the name of the EAAB, stating that the name is established in the Ordinances and can't be changed without changing the Ordinances. He also commented on what he learned from the compost Ordinance.

- There was a brief discussion about Rust Belt Riders and composting locations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by Ramona Boggins, Deputy Clerk of Council