



**Minutes of the
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board Meeting
July 10, 2025
Avon Lake Public Library, McMahan Room**

The Environmental Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB) meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. with Councilman Shahmir presiding.

Present: Citizen Members Rita George, Kayla Goodwin (6:44 p.m.), Amy Oliver, Marty Patton, Terry Robison (6:44 p.m.), and Terry Wyrock; Industry Members Tom Sulzer (Avient™) and Ron Spears (Lubrizol Corp.); Ex-Officio Member Councilman Rob Shahmir; and Director of Finance Designee-Deputy Clerk of Council Ramona Boggins.

Also Present: Residents Kathy Ferberdino (6:54 p.m.) and William Zimmerman.

Absent: Citizen Members Eric Krieg, Martin Matuszak, and Jonathan Potrzeba; Industry Members Michelle Hall (Ford) and David Messinger (Vestolit).

WELCOME/ROLL CALL

They did not have a quorum, so they proceeded with an open discussion.

INDUSTRY MEMBER UPDATES

Avient™

Mr. Sulzer reported on the upcoming annual Responsible Care 14001 certification audit scheduled for July 24, 2025.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Big Trucks

Mr. Wyrock expressed his frustration with the EAAB's lack of representation at the Big Trucks Event last year and wanted to know what the EAAB is planning for this year.

- Councilman Shahmir offered to assist with facilitating a purchase order.
- Ms. George offered to look up the past purchase order and get estimates for a water bottle or some other item to pass out on behalf of the EAAB.

INDUSTRY MEMBER UPDATES, CONTINUED

Lubrizol

Mr. Spears reported that they've had a quiet summer, good production levels, and 545 days without an injury.

Ms. Goodwin and Mr. Robison entered the meeting, thereby establishing a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 11, 2025, EAAB meeting minutes were approved as prepared and presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Green Scholarship Initiative

Action: Councilman Shahmir will distribute the PowerPoint document detailing the Scholarship program to the EAAB members.

Councilman Shahmir reported the status of the Scholarship check disbursement and that he had a meeting with the Finance Director to discuss the next steps.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Service Announcement on Deer Management

Councilman Shahmir initiated a discussion prompted by an email received from Councilwoman Amy Gentry about using birth control for deer management.

- Mr. Robison reported on the Cleveland Metroparks' experience with the sterilization of deer.
- With goals of reducing traffic accidents and resident complaints, there was a lack of optimism that this would be the best method of culling.

Data on deer culling in the City has been posted to the City's website; however, data on the correlation between deer culling activities and a reduction in traffic accidents by zones has not yet been analyzed or reported.

Action: Councilman Shahmir will contact Communications & Technology Director Rob Rua for geographic data on deer culling related to a reduction in traffic accidents.

There was agreement that culling is the most effective method of deer management.

- The meat is donated to food banks.
- Culling occurs seasonally, in the fall.
- There was mention of how residents are notified when culling occurs.

Election of New Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Councilman Shahmir initiated a brief discussion on the selection of a new Chairperson. Since there were no volunteers or nominations, it was agreed to postpone further discussion and voting until the next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Next Meeting

After some discussion, everyone agreed to have the next meeting on September 4.

Big Trucks

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the EAAB would purchase water bottles to distribute at the Big Trucks Event on September 20, not to exceed 10% more than the previous expenditure for a similar item.

Motion: Councilman Shahmir moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$800 for the purchase of an item to be passed out at the Big Trucks Event on September 20 on behalf of the EAAB. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, CONTINUED

Power Plant

Councilman Shahmir explained why he recently stopped providing updates on the Power Plant due to a comment that was made about the topic taking over meetings. Moving forward, he will be regularly providing updates on the Power Plant.

He displayed slides of the recent implosion that occurred and explained the typical geographical results of implosions. Discussion included the following topics:

- The differences between an explosion and an implosion.
- The Interim Development Agreement.
- Proposed zoning changes to the property.
- Timeline for environmental remediation.
- The impact of a 30-year Tax Increment Financing on the schools.
- Stormwater connection and outlet into Lake Erie.
- Collected air filter samples.

Action: Councilman Shahmir will take the collected air filter samples to the Lorain County Health Authority later this month under a chain of custody for testing.

- The remaining smokestack and transformers.
- The height limit of potential buildings.

There was a discussion on what residents can do to influence and/or question what happens with the development of the former Power Plant.

- EAAB's influence on Council and within the community was discussed.
- There was shared disappointment that the second implosion was allowed to proceed, even after the advisement of Councilman Shahmir to postpone it.
- New eyes and new approaches are needed to consider the long-lasting impacts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Ferbendino, Avon Lake, had a few questions about Councilman Shahmir's involvement with the City, and he responded with more details about his role.

- Councilman Shahmir suggested looking at the redevelopment that took place in Savannah, Georgia, with their power plant.

William Zimmerman, Avon Lake, commented on the Green Scholarship Initiative and shared his understanding of the Cleveland Water Alliance's student program.

- Councilman Shahmir responded with more details about the differences between their program and the one that he envisions.

Mr. Zimmerman then shared about a recent request and experience with Chief Utilities Executive Rob Munro, and Councilman Shahmir responded, citing examples from his work experience.

Finally, Mr. Zimmerman shared information he learned about the sale of Charah Solutions, Inc., stock.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted by Ramona Boggins, Deputy Clerk of Council