



**Minutes of the
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board Special Meeting
October 14, 2025
The Lake House**

The Environmental Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB) Special meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. with Mr. Krieg presiding.

Present: Citizen Members Kayla Goodwin, Eric Krieg, Marty Matuszak, Amy Oliver, Marty Patton, Jon Potrzeba, and Terry Wyrock; Industry Member Tom Sulzer (Avient™); Ex-Officio Member, Councilman Rob Shahmir (6:30-6:39 p.m.); and Director of Finance Designee, Deputy Clerk of Council Ramona Boggins.

Also Present: Resident William Zimmerman (6:40-6:48 p.m.).

Absent: Citizen Members Rita George and Terry Robison; Industry Members Steve Myers (Ford), Ron Spears (Lubrizol), and David Messinger (Vestolit); and Ex-Officio Members, Mayor Mark Spaetzel and Public Works Director Jon Liskovec.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ALCS¹ Green Scholarship/Fellowship Initiative

Action: Mr. Shahmir requested that the Board identify which members will be representing the EAAB in the ALCS Foundation Scholarship/Fellowship Program.

Former Power Plant Update

Mr. Shahmir reported on transparency and the sharing of information regarding the former power plant. He will present a compilation of edited video segments, emails, and communications at [tonight's Council Meeting](#)² that establishes a timeline of when transparency was promised, commitments were made, and by whom.

WELCOME/ROLL CALL

After attendance was taken and a quorum was established, Mr. Krieg introduced himself and stated the purpose of the meeting. Things that needed to be addressed, in his opinion, included:

¹ Avon Lake City Schools.

² In the video recording (accessible for three years) of the October 14, 2025, Council Meeting, Mr. Shahmir made his presentation from 28:18-36:10; responses and discussion continued to 39:50.

- The future vision of the EAAB and member engagement.
- Which members will renew their memberships.
- Staggering of term expirations, currently December 31, 2025.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, CONTINUED

Electing Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Motion: Mr. Sulzer moved to elect Eric Krieg as Chair and Jon Potrzeba as Vice-Chair of the EAAB. The motion was seconded by Mr. Patton and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 10, 2025, EAAB meeting minutes were approved as prepared and presented.

INDUSTRY MEMBER UPDATES

Avient™

Mr. Sulzer reported on their annual United Way Campaign and a focus on volunteering in Lorain County. Avient collaborated with Lubrizol internally, assisting them with a recent leak incident.

There was an inquiry resulting in further discussion about the Lubrizol incident.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Monarch Butterfly Update

Mr. Wyrock reported on the monarch butterfly project that was established five years ago. This year, 62 adult monarchs were hatched in Avon Lake and released with the hope that they would make it to Mexico. Butterflies hanging on the trees in Mexico used to number in the millions but are now only around 800,000. [Monarch Watch](#) is a volunteer-based organization that monitors the monarch butterflies. Mr. Wyrock shared about what makes monarchs unique and how his wife tags them for tracking.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, CONTINUED

Review Board Structure, Term Expirations, and Bylaws

Chair Krieg initiated discussion on the Board's structure, terms expiring, and bylaws.

- Consider term expirations based on tenure, up to 3-year commitments.
- Members want a virtual participation option if not able to attend in person.
- Boards and Commissions Structure Review Ad Hoc Committee was mentioned, as it relates to decisions about upcoming changes for Boards and Commissions.

- There was a unanimous desire to renew memberships after this term, barring the election of Mrs. Goodwin, who is running for a Council at-Large position.
- After interested candidates apply and interview, Council recommends and votes on the appointment of members to the EAAB.
- There was a question as to whether industry members go through the same interview process as resident members.
- There was curiosity expressed as to whether there were any repercussions for those who don't fulfill their obligations.
- In January, every member will need to be reappointed.
- Openings on boards or commissions should be advertised months in advance to allow time for the selection process.

Mrs. Goodwin spoke about her composting initiative, which had gained some momentum with the help of Ford's Michelle Hall. She expressed her passion for the topic and would like a program that can be implemented citywide. She has been having trouble getting people to reply to her emails and phone calls.

Mrs. Oliver spoke about other EAAB Member initiatives, including park connectivity, the ALCS Foundation Scholarship, and planting milkweed seeds to attract butterflies.

- Deputy Clerk Boggins read aloud Chapter 284, Environmental Affairs Advisory Board, Section 284.01, Establishment and Purpose.

There was discussion on topics the Board could focus on, including water-related concerns, and who to include in those conversations.

- It was stated that the Avon Lake Regional Water had been repeatedly invited to attend EAAB meetings in the past, but they consistently did not.

Members reflected on previous recommendations made by the EAAB, including those regarding the power plant demolition and remediation, noting that they were not advanced by Council. The Board agreed that the power plant property remains an important priority and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to pursue additional initiatives that contribute meaningfully to its mission.

Optimism was expressed about having an opportunity to reset the Board and create some call-to-action items that can be fulfilled.

Upcoming Meetings

There was discussion about the upcoming meeting days, times, and location.

Motion: Mr. Wyrock moved to continue having the EAAB meetings at the Lake House and to switch the meeting day to Tuesdays, starting January 2026. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The following dates, times, and location were agreed upon:

- Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake House.
- Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake House.³
- Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake House.
- Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake House.
- Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake House.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, CONTINUED

Topics for November Meeting

There was discussion about what topics should be covered at the November meeting:

- Member term limits, staggered expirations.
- Industry member relationships and the process of appointment.
- Initiative updates, member presentations.
- Sub-committees.
- Scholarship/ALCS Foundation representatives.

There was discussion on the Environmentally Speaking Series that was at the Avon Lake Public Library and whether they should consider starting those again. There was also discussion on possibly using ALC-TV for interviews or recording EAAB-related content. Lastly, there was discussion on the EAAB's budget, how much is left for 2025, and what is proposed for 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Submitted by Ramona Boggins, Director of Finance Designee and Deputy Clerk of Council

³ At the November 6, 2025, meeting, members voted to move the meeting to Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 6:30 p.m. at the Lake House.