

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee held remotely via Zoom, on the above date at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Korotash
C. Piercy – Chair
M. Veitch - Vice Chair
K. Aschim
S. Kilborn
J. Lucas
L. Sawatzky

Absent:

A. Luck

Staff:

M. Myers, Manager, Environment
P. Homeak, Environmental Coordinator – Community Strategy & Engagement, Environment & EAC Staff Liaison

Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and welcomed Committee members, guests and staff in attendance.

The Chair and all of the Committee members welcomed the newly appointed EAC Council Representatives, Councillor Neil Korotash and Councillor Ken MacKay, to the committee for the 2025-2026 term.

Adoption of Agenda

The Chair declared the November 27, 2025, agenda adopted as amended with the deletion of item Integrated Pest Management Plan Review.

Adoption of Minutes

The Chair declared the minutes of September 25, 2025, adopted as presented.

Green Community Grant Program Applications Review & Approval – In Camera

K. Aschim declared a conflict of interest as he is a member of one of the organizations that is being considered and recused himself from the in-camera discussion.

Moved by M. Veitch

That the Environmental Advisory Committee move in camera to discuss a matter pursuant to Section 29(1)(a) of the *Access to Information Act*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee went in camera at 6:11 p.m.

Moved by S. Kilborn
That the Committee reconvene in Public.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee reconvened in public at 7:34 p.m.

Moved by M. Veitch
That the details of the in-camera discussion remain confidential.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by M. Veitch
That the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the following Green Community Grant Program Applications:

#	Project Name (alphabetical)	Project Description	\$ Requested	\$ Approved by EAC
1.	Big Lake Environment Support Society (BLESS)	Requesting funding to support long standing Summer Nature Program resources, which includes free environmental education for children and families at the John Poole Wetland, the observation platform, and surrounding natural areas in St. Albert	\$2,000.00	\$2000.00
2.	Coal Mine Community Garden	Requesting funding to project to purchase hot composting and vermiculture system to safely and efficiently process the garden's large volume of organic materials. In addition to education for gardeners and the broader community on multiple composting methods to reduce waste, improve soil health, and lower individual carbon footprints.	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
3.	Lacombe Park Permaculture Garden	The project focuses on maintaining and expanding a thriving permaculture food forest that has transformed a one-acre lawn into an edible, climate-resilient landscape using swales, berms, groundcovers and rainwater harvesting. The goal is to add more groundcover, host expert-led workshops, expand rainwater catchment in 2026.	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00

4.	St. Albert Backyard Gardening Group	This project delivers a series of seasonal community events like seed swaps, plant and perennial exchanges, a spring gardening symposium, and a fall harvest celebration, to build local skills in sustainable, regenerative gardening while reducing waste and strengthening food resilience.	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
5.	Chandra-Lily Food Bank Sustainable Fresh Food Project	This project aims to collaborate with the St. Albert Food Bank to grow and provide 5-Gallon Tomato Kits to give to the community. In addition to growing more food with purchasing additional planting boxes. Together, these efforts will improve access to fresh food, enhance sustainable land use, and reduce water needs while building community involvement in local food production.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
6.	St. Albert Nature School	The SANS Native Plant Garden Project aims to create a 150 sq. ft. re-wilded learning space using native riparian plant species, honouring the forest that has supported the program's outdoor education for nearly a decade.	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
7.	St. Albert Nordic Ski Club	This project aims to provide affordable, local cross-country ski instruction and land-based winter learning for St. Albert schools, removing financial and transportation barriers that currently limit student access to outdoor winter recreation.	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
8.	St. Albert Seniors Centre	This project delivers a full growing-season plan, from workshops for volunteers and to support the expansion of the garden with vegetables, pollinator plants, and bee habitats. It aims to continue to create opportunities for seniors and volunteers to build gardening skills while staying active and socially connected.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
9.	Star of the North Retreat Centre	In 2026, the project will expand its education-focused model with	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00

		guidance from a Master Gardener, explore adding bees or chickens, strengthen its orchard, and host multiple learning events, school tours, and community workshops.		
10.	Wildrose Elementary School; Howl and Harvest 2026	This project aims to support students in Grades 1 and 4 to learn about the Indigenous culture, environmental stewardship, and their connection to the land through hands-on programs led by community experts, including taking home their own strawberry plant to care for.	\$5,000.00	\$2,350.00
Total Grant Funds Requested:		\$50,100.00		
Total Grant Funds Available:		\$50,000.00		
Total Grant Funds Approved:		\$40,450.00		

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EAC 2025 Annual Report Review & Approval

M. Myers provided the EAC 2025 Annual Report for review and approval.

Moved by K. Aschim

That the Environmental Advisory Committee approves the EAC 2025 Annual Report and to be presented to Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Round Table

The Environmental Advisory Committee members and staff provided feedback, discussed items of general interest, and gave final comments.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, January 22, 2026 – 6:00 p.m. at Synergy Building, 110 Carleton Drive

Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Monique Veitch (Jan 27, 2026 12:42:40 MST)

CHAIR



Grace Magyar (Jan 27, 2026 13:03:24 MST)

DESIGNATED OFFICER