

Environmental Committee
January 26, 2026
7:00 p.m. – City Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes – December 16, 2025
4. Review the progress of Environmental Projects and Goals for 2026
5. Review of the changes to the Bi-Laws of Environmental Committee
6. Next Meeting
7. Adjournment

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City of Danen
Special Meeting for Environmental Committee
Dec. 16, 2025

1. Call to Order at 7:01 p.m. CT

-Members present: Allan Jackimek, Arleta Peknik, Heather Conroy,
Val Kazich, Maura Killian, Joseph Kieckhefer

-Not present: Deb Hardtke, Staff Liaison Lisa Klemm

-Guest: Eric Gustafson

-Deb Hardtke arrived at 7:05 p.m. CT

2. Public Comment

-No comments

3. Approval of Minutes - Nov. 6, 2025

-Allan: Containers on driveway - I've never seen you have to have it a certain way.

-Arleta: Bar is supposed to be facing the street.

-Val: It may be so the lid opens when its lifted up.

-Allan: That was a clarification.

-Deb: Someone rang by doorbell and said it had to face the other way.

-Arleta: I received a tag from the garbage people.

-Joe: Its the bar in the middle.

-~~Em~~ Arleta: How can we get that info. out to people?

-Heather: There was a section for the Environmental Committee on the website. We should utilize for the Committee + drive people there. The Mayor could share a blurb + link to the webpage. We could put CLRT info there.

-Heather: Motion to approve.

-Deb seconded.

-All in favor. Approved.

4. Discussion of Environmental Projects and Goals for 2026

-~~Heather~~: It sounds like Item A. Urban Forestry

-Eric: Grant recieved for parkway trees. Already planted.

-Heather: They are going to pay Davey to do inventory of trees. I would like to know more. Would be nice for city to communicate with us.

- Eric: How many trees, what type, what health condition. Will help dictate which we replace them with going forward. This committee needs to get that list + give the city the type of trees that should be planted.
- Val: Does this go w/ community forestry workshop (Bylaw F)? They give us info. + we use for plan.
- Heather: Other environmental committees receive reports from the City + Park District.
- Eric: The city gave me a list of what trees I could plant.
- Heather: There are non-native trees on list. You want native plantings to bring down bug population. We would educate city on stuff like that.
- Arleta: We would have to be knowledgeable about this.
- Heather: Many of us already are. Many are on Garden club. We never received four emails about this.
- Allan: We can share our recos as a Committee. Would be nice to know what trees didn't make it too.
- Eric: I don't think there's any mistake to receive list + for our Committee to come back w/ our recos.
- Heather: DuPage county doesn't allow non-native planting on Lemont + 75th. Microforests + mini-prairies could use green space. I know people from DuPage Consortium + Forest Preserve that will do it for free. We could present the report to the City.

Item B.

- Joe: Bioswales. In parks, water sitting after it rains. Runoff from lawns goes into water system. A lot of low level native plants that trap that water. Prevents it from moving into roads.
- Hal: Floodplain maps would be a starting point.
- Joe: There is also opportunity for community education. The Conservation Foundation will come for free to assess homes.
- Maura: The Foundation works w/ cities, as well.
- Arleta: That makes a lot of sense. That's an amazing opportunity.
- Heather: Maybe E.C. puts on education event at the library. It could be virtual. It could be on a Darien E.C. playlist on YouTube, Facebook. They cover water + habitat protection.

- Arletta: You see streets, like in Hinsbrook, where the water sits on streets.

- Heather: There should be a storm sewer there.

C. Water + Habitat Protection

- Eric: Wetlands. I've been pushing city to do burning of wetlands. The one at Walmart needs to be done desperately. There is no plan. Walmart would have to authorize. The plants need to be burned + revived. By Amvet recycling, there's garbage all over. That is owned by shopping center.

- Heather: We could come up w/ suggested schedule for burning wetlands.

- Eric: Yes. They used to do it every 3 yrs.

- Eric: You could request a list of wetlands from Dan. DuPage County does the burning.

- Heather: I don't think anyone monitors the streams. Do they do health monitoring?

- Joe: The Conservation Foundation would do that.

- Eric: You may want to get one of Conservation Foundation reps at one of our meetings.

- Joe will reach out to Conservation Foundation.

- Heather: We could do community clean-up day once a year.

- Eric: I tried + was told no for liability reasons.

- Val: DuPage County signs a waiver.

- Eric: All the wetlands are private, owned by Walmart. You can talk w/ Dan.

- Heather: Can have education day. Conservation Foundation could be there.

E. Community Engagement + Education

- Heather: Could have an event, hybrid, at the library. Could have Conservation Foundation comes.

- Arletta: It's important that someone reports to Argonne meetings.

- Heather: They are revamping who they are inviting.

- Arletta: Whoever attends needs to report back, either during Council Meetings or Mayor Joe's Direct Connect. Eric wants to come.

- Heather: That could also go on our website.

- Allan: If we only have four seats, we need to have substitutes if people can't come.

F. Policy + Planning Support

- Heather: Need an official alderman in the Bylaws. Need a city rep to take notes. I think there should be more Committee members

- Eric: We used to have 9. I think 9 is a good number.
- Heather: we also talked about meeting monthly, and adding that to Bylaws.
- Allan: I think we should move to monthly.

G. Other New Goals

- Val: I tried to attend Hinsdale South HS's Environmental Committee. I'd like to work more closely w/ schools in area.
- Eric: I'm working w/ Hinsdale on low-flying planes, especially Southwest. Hinsdale had noise monitoring stations. After 90 days, they research the data. Hinsdale is in a group that works w/ Midway + O'Hare to remedy that. I'd like to see Danen get on this Committee. They have quarterly meetings. It might be interesting to get monitor put up in Danen. Kathleen Gargano is the village manager for City of Hinsdale.
- Eric: LRS is always talking about how people don't recycle correctly. I'd love a video of their processing plant. They manually pull things off that don't belong. That could be on Channel 6.
- Heather: We were told that wasn't a problem.
- Eric: It is. We've gotten lists. Plastic bags are a big problem. And put a video out to public. The video could explain why it couldn't be recycled. We should do a tour of the facility. We could do the video at the same time.

5. Review By-Laws of Environmental Committee

- Allan: These are the original By-laws I don't think they've been amended.
- Summary:
 - Meet monthly, not quarterly.
 - Have 9 members, not 7.
- Heather: Add "City to take minutes and an Alderman to serve on the Committee."
- hold meetings "at least once a month."
- Eric: Add to Purpose: To serve as liaison between City and Gargano.
- Heather: "And communicate CLRT info. to them." - Add to "E"
- Allan: I will send this to Committee & show proposed amendments w/ time

- Allan Eric: I'll make sure you get tree report.
- Heather: we would like to make sure Committee follows G.
- Eric: Argonne group could be Subcommittee.
- Heather: Maybe Eric can let them know we would like to do G+F + would like to receive report.
- Allan will make changes + send to Lisa, to send out to everyone. which we could then present at City Council meeting. Allan will confirm city attendance at next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

- Allan: Does the fourth Monday work well for standard monthly meetings?
- Arletta: How will we approach things each month?
- Joe: I will reach out to Conservation Foundation. Maybe they can come in Feb.
- Allan: I will reach out to Argonne to see who will be invited.
Heather
- Eric: I am going to reach out to Kathleen in Hinsdale.
- Arletta: I will reach out to LRS about a tour, + recycling confusion.
- Val: I will reach out to ~~Conservation Foundation about microforests.~~
Hinsdale South High School. Deb will also work on that. Val + Deb will also partner on microforests.

7. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. CT.
- Heather motioned to adjourn, Joe seconded.