

City of Aurora  
**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD**  
Jewell Wetlands Site Visit  
September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Kennedy, Suzy Cress, Wayne Gallagher, Bob Hunchberger, Jason Amaya, Brad Stratton, Tom Isaacson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vicky Samuel, Mark Christopher.

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Watts, OSNR Superintendent; Kristin Memmott, Natural Resource Specialist; David Footle, Natural Resources Technician.

VISITORS PRESENT: None.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Steve Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.
- II. WELCOME: Steve Kennedy welcomed the board members and staff to the September OSB meeting and thanked City staff Eric, Kristin, and David for being present.
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Bob Hunchberger moved to approve the agenda. Tom Isaacson seconded. Motion carried.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Brad Stratton moved to approve the minutes from the August OSB meeting, with edits. Wayne Gallagher seconded. Tom Isaacson abstained. Motion carried.
- V. MANAGEMENT REMARKS:
  - Board members are being provided with field vests, which will include the City logo and “Open Space Board Member” lettering. Board members not present may email their preferred vest sizes to Brian Green.
- VI. REPORTS:
  - Board members discussed how conservation easement monitoring is going. Most groups have completed the quarter 3 conservation easement monitoring. Wayne and Suzy are still completing their monitoring. Board members shared some exciting wildlife sightings they had while completing the monitoring.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
  - The outreach presentation subcommittee met and made solid progress on the presentation content. One more content creation session is anticipated. The digital presentation will be created using Prezi or CanvaPro. The subcommittee is hopeful that the presentation will be ready by the November OSB meeting.
- VIII. BULLET POINTS:
  - The board members discussed their progress on the conservation easement monitoring
  - The Outreach Presentation Committee updated the board on their progress
  - Aurora naturalists David Footle and Kristin Memmott led the board on a tour of Jewell Wetlands

- IX. CHAIR REMARKS: Steve thanked everyone for attending the meeting, despite the rain. He also reminded the board members that the October OSB meeting will be held at Morrison Nature Center.
- X. MEMBER COMMENTS & DISCUSSION:
- Tom- Set up a tour of the PCC for the Visit Aurora CEO and team. Fendi Despres did an amazing job and thoroughly impressed the tour group. Tom heard that Visit Aurora is planning to do more follow up with PCC and are entertaining a conservation conference concept for 2024.
  - Wayne- Did a bird count a Ponderosa Preserve that morning and spotted a Night Hawk perched in a tree.
  - Brad- Asked about the Pronghorn Natural Area monitoring project. Steve stated it is going well, with routine monitoring occurring. Wayne asked about the status of the windmill repairs. Steve replied he believed the top was still in the repair shop, but the new base is installed and looks great.
  - David- As part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge initiative, staff have been hosting trainings on participation in the Kansas University Monarch Watch program. This involves tagging Monarch butterflies so that volunteers in Mexico can document success of migration. Volunteer Stewards Gerry and Steve are doing great and have tagged 10 Monarchs so far. Several board members expressed interest in participating. Links: [Monarch Watch](#) and [The Monarch Joint Venture](#)
  - Kristin- Updated OSB members about the success of the school programming the Naturalist team has achieved so far this year. In 2019 there were 12 schools that were engaged in programming. So far this year there have been 42 engagements. Kristin also informed the group about the Star K Ranch Nature Play Area grant funded project that has kicked off in design phase.
  - Steve reminded the group about the next meeting in October being at Morrison Nature Center.
- XI. NEW BUSINESS: Kristin Memmott and David Footle led the OSB members on a tour of the Jewell Wetlands.
- XII. ADJOURN: Wayne Gallagher moved to adjourn. Suzy Cress seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM at Morrison Nature Center.

*Steven L. Kennedy*

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Steve Kennedy, Chair

*Lauren R. Morales*

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Lauren Morales, Recording Secretary