



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Final

Youth Advisory Council

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
6:00 PM

Regular

701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO. 65201
Conference Room
1A/1B

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM

Present: 13 - Alex Hiles, Emily Crumbliss, Grace Harris, Ahlam Alamin, Harvey Munter, Aanya Shetty, Mira Tosh, Eleanor Schierding, Xi Kang, Jacquelyn Sample, Kai Kuroki, Aryan Debnath and Ellie Brooks

Excused: 1 - John Yu

Absent: 2 - Laya Anand and Blair Townsend

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Eric Hempel introduced himself as the Leader of the office of sustainability at the City of Columbia.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by Emily Crumbliss, seconded by Harvey Munter; motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the December minutes made by Ahlam Alamin, seconded by Eleanor Schierding; motion carried.

Youth Advisory Draft Minutes - December 9, 2025.

Attachments: [Youth Advisory Council Draft Minutes - December 9, 2025](#)

V. SPECIAL ITEMS

Introduction and Presentation with Eric Hempel, Manager of the Office of Sustainability.

Eric Hempel presented a slideshow about sustainability, climate change, and policy surrounding these areas. The Climate Action Adaptation Plan (CAAP) is currently being updated. The main objective of the plan is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions citywide. The Office has set emission reduction goals. Eric Hempel highlighted why the people need to act against climate change, because of vulnerabilities within Columbia. Green infrastructure is being considered for Columbia. The CAAP involves interdepartmental staff teams, the office of sustainability, and community members. The city is also working towards roadside pollination, creating both sustainability and safety for mowers. The department is helping vulnerable populations through targeted universalism, pushing them towards preparedness Level 7. The department hosted a heat mapping project for the City of Columbia called 'Show Me The Heat'. This project was

taken to new levels in 'Show Me the Relief' where areas with high levels of heat were given aid through heat helping kits and education. Another project, COMO Canopy, planted over 300 trees, again with areas of high vulnerability in mind. They are also planning to host an Earth Day Art Contest, to involve youth in this whole process. Half an acre of land for a potential YAC service project. COMO wild yards program to set and reach sustainable goals for resident's backyards.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Youth Summit Planning

Attachments: [YAC Earth Day Planning Document](#)

Grace Harris confirmed that YAC is going to create a youth corner at Earth Day. The YAC then discussed bingo boards with swag as prizes. Harvey Munter proposed interviewing people at other booths and areas of focus, this could also be turned into a reel. These videos could be played at the City Council presentation. YAC uniforms were considered. Kai Kuroki proposed handing out seeds at the booth for sustainability. Ahlam Alamin proposed a throwing game for recycling. Homework was assigned to come up with an interactive idea for booths at the youth summit corner.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Social Media Workshop

5 post minimum was established. The first post is introducing YAC, the next three will be over our areas of focus, then the YAC will transition to more niche topics (Drug abuse, vaping, and gun control).

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Jacque Sample discussed an ordinance regarding passing resources from cars only on major roadways. The YAC concluded that as it is written now, this section should not be passed.

Grace Harris asked if the YAC would be interested in writing a letter of support for a bill regarding gun control. The YAC supported this.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

February 10, 2026

X. ADJOURNMENT

Kai Kuroki motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Harvey Munter. [motion carried]. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573.874.CITY (2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit CoMo.gov/upload.