I. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
Susan Besson called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and a quorum was declared. One typographical error was suggested for correction in the December 2011 minutes. Susan voted to approve the minutes as amended and Suzanne seconded.

Mr. Cheng and Ms. Zoloth joined the meeting at 7:07 and 7:08pm. Ms. Viner joined the meeting at 7:18pm.

II. CITIZEN COMMENT
There was no citizen comment.

III. ONGOING BUSINESS/NEWS/UPDATES
a. New board member.
Ms. Besson initiated discussion by introducing Mr. Croegaert as a new member of the Environment Board. Board members then introduced themselves and provided detail about their backgrounds.

b. Reporting change.
Suzette Robinson, Director of Public Works and Michelle Cain, her Executive Secretary, were announced as the new staff liaisons for the Environment Board. This motivation for the change came from Ms. Robinson who believes that since the Evanston Environment Board (EEB) and the Public Works Department have similar projects and goals, it would be in the best interest of both parties to bring their efforts together. With this change, the Environment Board would report to Administration & Public Works rather than Human Services.

Members of the EEB expressed regret at the departure staff liaison Carl Caneva, and said they would have liked the opportunity to have one last meeting to thank him for his work with the Board.

S. Besson expressed wish and hope that with this change there will be more frequent and open communication between the Board and City staff, and that this will lead to better collaboration. There are hugely valuable resources on the Board that are available to the City.

c. Evanston Sustainability Group Consortium
In Ms. Finnegan’s absence, Ms. Besson presented information on organization of an event, ‘Sustain Evanston,’ be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 9:30am to 11:30am at the John Evans Alumni Center, 1800 Sheridan Road. Representatives from environmental groups will meet to discuss ways to foster more communication and
The event is being organized by the EEB (Ms. Finnegan and Ms. Besson), Office of Sustainability (Catherine Hurley) and the Utilities Commission (Michael Smith, Chair).

d. City Code Update
Ms. Hurley was unable to attend the EEB meeting and no update was provided. K. Glynn offered to follow up with Catherine and report her findings at the next meeting on March 8, 2012.

e. Community Choice Electricity Aggregation, Ordinance 103-O-11
Ms. Besson reported that a referendum for electric aggregation will be placed on the March 20, 2012 general primary election ballot. The referendum invites small businesses and residents to vote on an electric aggregation option, which could allow for lower electricity rates and choice of renewable power source. Ms. Hurley and Mr. Bartling attended the 2nd ward meeting to discuss the topic and they will be present at the 9th ward meeting on February 29, held at the Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave.

f. CONSEC. Ms. Besson reported that at CONSEC’s (Committee of North Shore Environmental Commissioners) recent meeting, electricity aggregation was discussed. (CONSEC is made up of North Shore communities including Deerfield, Glencoe, Highland Park, Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Northbrook, Glenview and Winnetka, and meets quarterly.)

Mr. Cheng asked about ComEd’s current stake in the community considering it appears to have a monopoly over the City and they have the power to raise rates. Mr. Glynn responded stating ComEd would be hurt by the passing of the bill; however, it is a good thing for the City because it will gain more power. The Board informally agreed that as a policy advisory board, it does not have a role in supporting the bill.

g. Composting
Mr. Bartling requested information on the data from the composting survey posted on the City of Evanston website? Mr. Glynn stated the survey had only been up for a couple of months. Ms. Robinson stated that it was being handled by Ms. Hurley and staff would look into the results. Ms. Robinson did state, however, that the City is reaching out to those residents who were given composting carts to gather data on their experiences. Ms. Robinson said she would report on the results gathered in an upcoming meeting.

IV DISPOSABLE BAGS
a. Progress report
The Board expressed disappointment with how the Environment Board’s bag presentation to Council was received. Board members Zoloth, Waller, and Franklin recently met with Ms. Hurley, Aldermen Grover and Burrus to discuss next steps. Aldermen Grover and Burrus have drafted a proposal based on an idea successfully implemented in Dubuque, Iowa that calls for a gradual phasing-in of plastic bag reduction, with specific, measurable goals, and initially implicating larger retail outlets of more than 15,000 sq. ft.

Although reusable bags would be the ultimate goal, the current focus is on plastic bags because at least paper bags can be recycled. The initial goal is begin changing behavior of residents. The way the Aldermen believe this will work is through gradual and targeted actions and incentives rather than fees or taxes.

b. Next Steps
Ms. Zoloth stated that the initiative would start with big chain and box stores. Ms. Franklin reported that Aldermen Burrus and Grover will meet with the environment groups to create a task force.

Ms. Zoloth also reported that a group of Northwestern students are visiting to Evanston-area hospitals, stores, etc. to gauge their use of bags. Data will be reported to the Aldermen and C. Hurley.

Ms. Viner asked how this plan will work. Ms. Zoloth stated that it would be spearheaded at an Aldermanic level in the beginning phase. A plan or administrative form would have to be submitted to Council and the business councils would need to approve the idea.
V TRANSPORTATION

a. Nomination to Hugh Bartling to Transportation and Parking Committee
   The EEB voted to nominate Mr. Bartling to the Transportation and Parking Committee. The next steps would be for Mayor Tisdahl to approve his appointment and then a recommendation to Council for approval. Mayor Tisdahl already provided her approval and Ms. Robinson stated that she believed his confirmation of his appointment is on the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

b. Bike Corral Recommendation to Human Services Committee/Administration & Public Works
   The bike corral presentation since before the January EEB meeting. Ms. Zoloth asked how many corrals were proposed. Mr. Bartling responded that there was only one, but multiple possible locations were proposed. Ms. Besson asked the Board that since there were plans to change reporting parties from Human Services to Administration & Public Works, was it worth it to bring the bike corral presentation to Human Services. Ms. Robinson suggested the recommendation be presented to A&PW as part of its proposed Bike Corral Pilot that is planned for 2.27.12. Ms. Robinson explained that the bike coral presentation was brought to Council previously; however, Council requested that bike racks be tried prior to a bike corral. The bike rack suggestion was tried, though did not lead to people parking their bikes at the rack, but rather on trees and in front of stores. Ms. Robinson stated she believed this may be because people feel less secure parking bikes at a rack where they are not visible rather than a bike corral where security is better.

Further discussion was held about how to bring the bike corral issue forward, and whether to present to both Human Services and A&PW. Ms. Robinson stated that the bike corral could not be approved by Human Services because it is an issue of right-of-way. Mr. Bartling was agreeable to allowing the recommendation to be presented to A&PW; however, he has a strong sense of ownership over the project because it has been a work in progress over years. It was agreed that Mr. Bartling would present his plan with Public Works at the February 27 meeting of A&PW.

VI Strategic Plan

a. Amend By-Laws per Revised Guiding Principle from November
   The language previously approved amending the Board’s mission and strategic priorities were confirmed. S. Robinson confirmed that the language on the web site page for the EEB will be modified to reflect this change.

b. September 2012 presentation to Rules Committee.
   The Environment Board will present its strategic plan to the Rules Committee in September 2012. Ms. Besson encouraged members to reflect on the plan in order to discuss their findings at the next meeting in March. Ms. Zoloth suggested division of the strategic plan by Ms. Finnegan and Ms. Besson so that groups of two can review and revise parts. Ms. Robinson also offered to obtain feedback and inside information on what other Boards have experienced in their presentation of their strategic plans. Mr. Cheng asked whether it is expected that they present their accomplishments or their plans. Ms. Robinson said she believed it was both that would be presented to the Rules Committee. Ms. Viner also suggested that they visit the next presentation to Rules committee to see what others are presenting.

VII Roundtable

Ms. Zoloth initiated the roundtable by mentioning that during her meeting with Aldermen Grover and Burrus, it was discussed that perhaps money saved from the lack of salting and plowing over this mild winter should be used for an environmental cause. Ms. Robinson agreed that it was a great idea; however, it would not be able to go into action until the next January considering the City’s fiscal year is on a calendar year now. In other words, next December is a part of the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year and if next December is high in snow accumulation, the money saved in the beginning of this year will be used at the end of the year.

Ms. Viner stated that she, Ms. Finnegan and Len Sciarrara made a 90-minute presentation to the Illinois Bar Association on green buildings. Ms. Finnegan served as the ex-officio speaking about the benefit of green buildings and how it benefits the economy. Mr. Sciarrara is an architect with extensive experience in green buildings. Ms. Viner provided the legal perspective. Ms. Viner stated that she thought the presentation went well and the video of the presentation may be of good use to distribute. Ms. Besson agreed, if the language and length is appropriate to laypersons.

Ms. Besson reported that the City is being sued by Veolia. The suit is allegedly on grounds of ‘harassment’ due to repeated City inspections based on complaints from neighbors Ms. Zoloth stated that she is working with a group of students (Northwestern University) to develop a multi-page paper on the topic for their senior project. As a part
of the project, the Geology and Law department are working them to look at it from a social and political perspective.

VIII ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was concluded at 9:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, March 8, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Cain, Executive Secretary