MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, June 9, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

Members Present: Paige Finnegan, Susan Besson, Jill Franklin, Likwan Cheng, Ellen King, Laurie Zoloth, Hugh Bartling, Kevin Glynn

Members Absent: Anne Viner, Dan Cox, Suzanne Waller

Staff Present: Carl Caneva, Health; Ald. Colleen Burrus

Presiding Members: Paige Finnegan and Susan Besson

DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Co-chair Paige Finnegan called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – May 12, 2011
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the May 12, 2011 meeting be approved. J. Franklin noted that H. Bartling was in attendance at the May meeting but was not listed in Attendees. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as amended.

CITIZEN COMMENT
DISPOSABLE BAG UPDATE

Ald. Colleen Burrus addressed the board regarding the upcoming bag ordinance to go before A&PW on Monday, June 13, 2011. The Alderman planned to make a motion for information shared at the community meeting to be given to the board to draft an action plan to be presented to Administration and Public Works (A&PW) for October of 2011.

L. Cheng asked about the status of citizen involvement. A meeting was lead by Sustainability Coordinator Catherine Hurley to discuss the issue on May 24, 2011.

The Alderman requested the board review all materials and draft a proposal to be presented at the A&PW Meeting.

Chair Besson asked if A&PW could move this issue forward. L. Zoloth and J. Franklin indicated their interest in drafting the ordinance. S. Besson indicated any concerns about the board not wanting to take on the issue were an unfortunate miscommunication.

E. King indicated some confusion about the process and how the issue was brought to the board and subsequently A&PW.
Chair Finnegan explained the process of passing ordinances and policies. Board Members Franklin and Zoloth will lead the review of the plastic bag research materials and work on the proposal for the September meeting.

BIKES AND MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

E. King and H. Bartling attended a meeting of the Downtown Evanston organization. The owner of the building at 500 Davis St. is interested in providing bicycle parking. H. Bartling has reviewed the minutes of the Public Arts Committee, and has met with Jeff Cory, staff to the committee, regarding bicycle racks as art.

L. Zoloth stated there needs to be more education and additional bike lanes. There are concerns about safety and riding in streets with no lanes.

E. King has also talked with Students for Ecological and Environmental Development (http://groups.northwestern.edu/seed/) at Northwestern University, they are interested in collaborating on the downtown bicycle parking project.

H. Bartling indicated there was a meeting with city staff and the Active Transportation Alliance to address bike parking and lanes (Refer to May Meeting Minutes). City Staff (specifically Paul Schneider was mentioned) were very positive and looked forward to working with the board. He indicated concern there is no place to move forward.

K. Glynn asked if a process exists through which citizens can provide input on transit decisions, specifically in moving the Multi-modal plan forward. For example, is there a means to request a bike lane? Carl Caneva will research this.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Board member Cheng indicated there are some scheduling issues moving forward on Stormwater Management. He spoke with Provost Linzer at Northwestern University and the Vice President of Research J. Walsh. Member Cheng will work with NU students on Sheridan Road Green Infrastructure issue. He reported Metropolitan Water Reclamation District proposed programs on Stormwater Management and are testing permeable surfaces.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES TRAINING

C. Caneva updated the group on work plan guidelines and scheduling for the creation of the Environment Board’s work plan and subsequent presentation to the Rules Committee in September 2012. The intent of the plan is to achieve consistency in the City’s numerous boards and commissions while meeting the goal of advanced transparency. Chair Finnegan indicated that the League of Women Voters of Evanston has created a Handbook for Members of Boards, Committees and Commissions (http://www.cityofevanston.org/assets/Boards%20Commissions%20and%20Committees%20Member%20Handbook-final%2022ma.pdf) that can be found on the city’s website.

BOARD LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS
Chair Finnegan opened the floor to nominations. Ellen King, Kevin Glynn, and Laurie Zoloth nominated Chair Finnegan and Chair Besson to continue to serve as Co-Chairs. Voice vote passed unanimously, Paige Finnegan and Susan Besson will serve as Co-Chairs until the next election in June 2013 per Environment Board By-Laws.

OLD BUSINESS
COMPOSTING

C. Caneva indicated there was no news. He had communicated with C. Hurley that the nuisance ordinance as it stands could address many of the issues related to composting that have been discussed at the Board over the past several months.

GREEN BUILDING ORDINANCE

Revised ordinance will go before council on June 13, 2011. L. Cheng asked if non-commercial buildings are included. Chair Finnegan answered no. This ordinance covers only commercial buildings as defined in the City Code. However, this definition does include multi-family buildings with more than six units.

WIND COMMITTEE

K. Glynn reported that the Mayor’s Wind Farm Committee will present their recommendations to Council on June 20, 2011. The Committee Report (http://www.cityofevanston.org/government/boards_committees/WFC%20Review%20Document%20Post.pdf) can be viewed on the City’s Website. The State of Illinois has begun work to lease land on the lakefront. The city has to act in harmony with its residents and should foster a transparent relationship. K. Glynn stressed that the group is still in the discovery stages and its focus is to provide a response to the requests for information received.

K. Glynn indicated the wind farm would produce 100 Megawatts of energy and the City of Evanston uses 80 MegaWatts. There is a potential for the city to become an energy provider; however initial research on that topic are not favorable for the city becoming its own utility.

MILK CARTON RECYCLING
Tabled to July meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION

H. Bartling, asked for an update on the status of the City Code revisions as the board had planned to follow-up with legal in April. C. Caneva indicated the revised code is being presented, title by title, to Council through September. He will provide the group with dates and titles to be discussed.

L. Zoloth discussed the "Help a Neighbor Day" program that planted 20 trees in Mason Park through a donation by Home Depot. The day is a collaborative effort with students from Evanston Township High School and Northwestern University’s Brady Scholars. She stated she would like to see an effort to grow a food forest. She asked if there were any
efforts to address empty lots and plant gardens.

The Brady Scholars at NU have voted to address the Veolia Transfer Station as their next project. Leadership Evanston developed [http://www.dumptheevanstondump.com/](http://www.dumptheevanstondump.com/) as a platform for sharing information about this issue. The Brady Scholars will seek to remove Northwestern-generated generated from the Veolia site in an effort to force its closure.

Chair Besson asked about the status of water as a revenue source. C. Caneva indicated the city does have a want to raise revenue but there are larger issues. They city is researching the issue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:50 p.m., June 9, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carl Caneva
Division Manager Health