MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, July 14, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

Members Present: Paige Finnegan, Jill Franklin, Laurie Zoloth, Hugh Bartling, Suzanne Waller

Members Absent: Anne Viner, Susan Besson, Likwan Cheng, Ellen King, Kevin Glynn

Staff Present: Carl Caneva, Health; Catherine Hurley, Sustainability Coordinator

Community Members Present: Dick Peach, Keep Evanston Beautiful
Elizabeth Miller, Northwestern University
Michael Smith, Evanston Utilities Commission
Tanya Triche, Illinois Retail Merchants Association

Presiding Members: Paige Finnegan

I. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
a. Meeting called to order at 7:07pm, No Quorum.

II. CITIZEN COMMENT

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS
a. Stormwater Management, C.Hurley
   i. C. Hurley, Sustainability Coordinator, updated the group on Stormwater Management meeting on July 7, 2011, residents and city staff involved (handouts attached). Two primary issues discussed:

   1. Permeable Pavement: C. Hurley updated the group regarding a meeting with Public Works City Staff (Dahal, Schneider) and residents (Hal Sprague) regarding permeable pavement. Encouraging residents to choose green permeable alleys was the main topic. Chair Finnegan asked if the program was similar to the alley program in that the City of Evanston and the residents in the alley split costs 50/50 (http://www.cityofevanston.org/public-works/alley-paving/) H. Bartling indicated it was the same. C. Hurley stated the main obstacles are cost due to the under layer being either clay or sand. In the process a soil boring is taken and the materials are considered after the assessment is complete. Chair Finnegan recommended that the group consider a cost split based on the incremental additional costs (permeable vs. standard) as opposed to a standard
50/50 split or that the City covers the additional costs due to the infrastructure savings as a result of less stormwater runoff. Board members agreed savings should also be described. Paul Schneider, City Engineer, identified as staff resource.

2. **Sustainable Parkways:** C. Hurley is working with staff to better understand the parkway planting program with regards to options and cost. Currently, residents can apply to manage small parkway triangles and plantings. There exist concerns about water intensive species being planted. Chair Finnegan asked about the Sheridan Road stretch being considered for permeable paving and sustainable planting. Paul Schneider and C. Hurley will work with Forestry Division to walk the area. There is a concern about the area of influence around existing trees. C. Hurley confirmed Sheridan road project (Emerson north past the Water Plant to Isabella) is not past the design stage. Chair Finnegan introduced Michael Smith, Chair of the Evanston Utilities Commission, Mr. Smith indicated the Utilities Commission is also interested in easing the burden of stormwater on the sewer system. They are open to working with the Environment Board to achieve the goals established in the Climate Action Plan.

b. **Disposable Bags,** L.Zoloth and J.Franklin
   
i. Per a discussion with Ald. Burrus, Chair Finnegan indicated the Board is to move the plastic bag discussion forward; the Alderman indicated this could be accomplished without an ordinance but the Alderman voiced concern as to success without an ordinance. The board is expected to produce an update by the Administration and Public Works meeting on October 24, 2011.
   
ii. Dick Peach (Keep Evanston Beautiful) and Elizabeth Miller (Northwestern Student) indicated they previously drafted an ordinance addressing the issue of plastic bags. Mr. Peach was concerned as he watched a similar ordinance fail in Seattle due to a lack of a public education campaign and his group decided not to go forward with the ordinance but to begin public education.
   
iii. L. Zolotf gave a brief presentation regarding plastics (slides attached). She stated there is a concern with film (clear plastic wrappers) and bags, and their impact on the environment. Neither are easy to recycle due to economic limitations (film is considered dirty and difficult on the recycling machines). In 2007 the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) proposed a statewide bag and film buyback bill, which was eventually defeated by the Illinois Retail Merchant's Association (IRMA). SWALCO did pilot a 2 year (2007-2009) program whereby companies like Jewel and Dominick's had collection stations. Tanya Triche, IRMA, indicated the plastics are collected and reformed into pellets for new bags or other uses (flooring being one). H. Bartling asked how much energy was involved with the recycling aspect. L. Zolotf stated concerns with the carbon footprint. The energy involved in recycling due to
transport and machine operation, but the goal was to get the bags off the streets. C. Hurley indicated there is a life cycle on paper and plastic in the white paper included in the packet and available at http://www.cityofevanston.org/sustainability/waste_reduction_recycling/White%20Paper%206.11.pdf. Tanya Triche, IRMA, stated the association has advocated for a statewide policy, no home rule, with a sunset, provision to be activated after 3 years. This would assist the industry in adapting to the new requirement. Post sunset IRMA indicated a home rule provision would be reconsidered. The concern being pilot programs have not been robust enough to make significant changes. SWALCO put the burden on the plastic bag manufacturers; create incentives to make more sustainable products (Extended Producer Responsibility). Illinois Senate Bill 102 (http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=84&GA=97&DocTypeId=SB&DocNum=102&GAID=11&LegID=&SpecSess=&Session=) is a resource.

iv. L. Zoloft and J. Franklin suggest a three pronged approach:
   1. Work with SWALCO as a partner in the process and develop a matrix adopting the most effective policy. (Senate Bill 102)
   2. Support Citizens to work toward ban on plastic and reduction of film and a plan to move toward 100% recycled paper bag
   3. Make bags redeemable (example: Berkley, CA) customers pay 5 cents a bag. Funds not redeemed go to the city. Chair Finnegan asked if there would be one central collection site. L. Zoloft indicated yes the suggestion would be for one central location to take in the bags and sell to the recycling company. H. Bartling asked if Berkley is running the program as a revenue source or if it is subsidized by the City of Berkley. L. Zoloft indicated that she was unaware if the program produced revenue or was subsidized.

v. D. Peach stated that accounting for the redemption was a concern.

vi. J. Franklin stated the goal was to incentivize recycling and make it budget neutral to the City.

vii. Elizabeth Miller asked if the Berkley ordinance reduced use initially? L. Zoloft and J. Franklin indicated they did not know. L. Zoloft indicated this was akin to changing social norms.

viii. Chair Finnegan asked if SWANCC was involved at all? C. Hurley indicated there has been no discussion with SWANCC

ix. Chair Finnegan indicated the board was asked to address this from an Evanston standpoint. C. Hurley stated that because there have been media stories SWALCO and Evanston would be a great team to get others involved. C. Hurley stated the board could recommend a liaison with SWALCO for the recruitment of more communities and the drafting of a bill. Chair Finnegan spoke about a plastic bag committee with other stakeholders to develop a state bill. L. Zoloft the goal would be towards a 100% recycled paper bag.

c. Bikes and the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, H. Bartling
   i. H. Bartling stated there is a pedestrian enhancement project to install a bike shelter and bike corral. There has been a proposal put
forth by City Staff for bike shelters tied into a larger program. City
Staff (R. Dahal, S. Robinson, P. Schneider, C. Hurley) and
Environment Board Members (E. King and H. Bartling), reviewed a
site in front of Evanston Athletic Club entrance. The site will go
before the transportation and parking committee; spots in front of
Whole Foods and Tommy Nevins were also prime spots for corrals.
Concerns were raised regarding lost revenue from the parking
meters ($2500.00 lost per year per space). H. Bartling
recommended an EEB member attend the next Transportation and
Parking Meeting.

ii. Chair Finnegan asked questions about the process by which
requests were made. C. Caneva stated he received an email that
comments would be made at Transportation/Parking Committee.
Questions as to whether Rajeev Dahal is on the committee, were
bike corrals on Clark and Central before the committee. During the
meeting it was confirmed Mr. Dahal is not part of the committee.
The board will move forward by:

1. Advocate for Environment Board Liaison for the Parking
   Committee. CF will speak to Ald. Burrus.
2. Did Bike Corrals pass through the committee? C. Caneva
   will research.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Composting Update
   i. C. Hurley updated the board about the composting guide
      (attached). Used garbage containers (95 gallons) will be given to
      250 people at the Recycling Fair July 23, 2011 9:00am-Noon at
      2100 Ridge Ave. Funding received from energy efficiency grants.
      Staff in Public Works converted the wheel-less containers which
      have Compost written in yellow and holes drilled into them. The
      City is also looking into using unusable garbage containers for rain
      barrels. L. Zoloft indicated a table top composter given to residents
      in Berkley, CA; she requested C. Hurley ask Berkley how it is
      funded.

b. Green Building Ordinance
   i. Chair Finnegan updated the board the ordinance passed through
council.

c. Off-Shore Wind
   i. Primary issue to the council is one seat on the Lake Michigan task
      force. It will be brought before council on July 18, 2011. This was
      considered the most time sensitive issue.

d. Milk Carton Recycling (A. Viner)
   i. tabled

e. 2011 US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection
   i. Evanston won smaller city for implementation of Climate Action
      Plan, link of 3 minute video to be sent out via email to board by C.
      Caneva. $10,000.00 will be issued to the City of Evanston to be
      given to a Not For Profit.

f. Strategic Plan Review
i. Chair Finnegan updated the board and asked members to review the strategic plan.

g. CMAP Water Conservation Funding (C.Hurley)
   i. C. Hurley updated the board regarding a June 29, 2011 memo to develop water conservation plan. Resolution passed to allow CMAP to provide technical assistance to the City of Evanston. C. Hurley will work with staff to facilitate meetings with community, electronic surveys.

V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. C. Caneva updated the group on Veolia there was a hearing on July 14, 2011 for odors experienced by the neighborhood on June 14, 2011. Veolia was found libel and fined $125.00. There would be an additional hearing on July 28, 2011 for a separate odor ticket.
   b. L. Zolof requested information on the operation of a for-profit greenhouse in Evanston. C. Caneva and C. Hurley indicated resources could be found in the Economic Development Office.

VI. ADJOURNMENT at 8:51pm
NEXT MEETING – Thursday, September 8, 2011

Respectfully Submitted,
Carl Caneva
Division Manager Health