Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, October 10, 2013
7:00 pm
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2200

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/Declaration of Quorum

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes- September Minutes (Attachment)

III. Public Comment (Please sign-in)

IV. Staff Reports (S. Robinson, C. Hurley) (attachment)

V. Complete Streets Ordinance (attachment)
   a. Recap- A & PW Memo and Presentation
   b. Review text to Legal for Ordinance/Resolution

VI. New Project Discussions for 2013-14
   a. City Requests
   b. Identify New Projects

VII. Roundtable

VIII. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING – November 7, 2013
MEETING NOTES

Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, September 12, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

Members Present: Susan Besson, Hugh Bartling, Tom Clark, Samuel Headd, Todd Schwier, Kevin Glynn, Likwan Cheng

Members Absent: Ellen King

Staff: Suzette Robinson, Director of Public Works, Catherine Hurley, Sustainable Programs Coordinator, Paulina Albazi, Special Projects Assistant

Presiding Member/s: Susan Besson

I. CALL TO ORDER – S. Besson called meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL of MINUTES from May. Minutes approved.
S. Besson made a MOTION to approve. All in favor.

III. CITIZEN COMMENT

IV. STAFF UPDATES (ATTACHMENT)
C. Hurley is working on agenda items for upcoming Sustain Evanston meeting on October 5th and is requesting assistance from the Board on items to add to agenda.
The City's MS4 permit will be expiring on March 31, 2014. Residents are encouraged to review and comment on the (ATTACHED) draft permit.
Evanston Green Buzz website is going to be promoted on the City's website. Groups are encouraged to post their meetings etc. on their.

V. COMPLETE STEETS ORDINANCE
   A. Review and Finalize Draft Presentation to 09/23 A & PW Committee
   B. Assign Speaking Roles

Complete Streets draft GOALS (ATTACHMENT) further discussed and edited, the Board also NOTED:

T. Schwier suggested questions to be asked for Council. Questions to drive discussion.
T. Clark asked if Council is aware that a Complete and Green Streets ordinance is going to be presented to A & PW Committee. Since the City is already taking part in some of the principals of Green Streets.
VI. **MS4 PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW**
The Storm Water application is on the City’s website for review.

VII. **ROUNDTABLE**
The board discussed agenda items for future meetings. Board members will work on items to discuss for October’s Board meeting.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**
S. Besson MOTION to adjourn. ALL IN FAVOR
The meeting was concluded at 9:00pm.

**NEXT MEETING – October 10, 2013**
Memorandum

To: Evanston Environment Board

From: Suzette Robinson, Public Works Director
      Catherine Hurley, Sustainability Programs Coordinator

Subject: Staff Report

Date: October 10, 2013

Summary:
The following memorandum summarizes staff updates from the City of Evanston for the Evanston Environment Board for the October 10, 2013 meeting.

STAR Communities and Collaborative Projects Featured at Sustain Evanston Meeting.
On Saturday October 5th Evanston residents and activists working in the areas of climate change, energy efficiency and sustainability came together for the second annual Sustain Evanston meeting of 2013 at the Levy Senior Center from 9am until noon. This meeting featured a presentation on the City of Evanston’s participation in a new community level sustainability rating system, STAR Communities and an update on the projects which were selected by the group for collaborative focus in 2013. Read a summary of the Sustain Evanston Meeting on the Evanston Green Buzz website.

Bike Plan and Bike Infrastructure Update
Help the City of Evanston improve bicycling in our community and participate in the 2013 Bicycle Plan Update. Visit the City’s website for the latest information on public meeting and input sessions.

Public Meeting on Saturday, October 26
Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Avenue
9:00AM – 3:00PM, Presentation/Discussion: 9:00AM - 11:00AM
Bike Tour: 12:00PM - 3:00PM
Register to Participate in Discussion and Bike Tour

Share Your Ideas
Provide your ideas and input on the Bicycle Plan Update by taking our Bike Survey and/or submitting your ideas via 3-1-1. (847-448-4311)

Volunteers Needed
The City of Evanston is seeking volunteers to help conduct bicycle counts as part of an update to the City’s Bike Plan. Volunteers are needed during the following times: Monday, October 7th and Thursday, October 10th between 7-9 am and 3-5 pm;
and October 12th 10 am-12 pm. Volunteers will help track ridership levels, demographic data and document the demand for bike facilities throughout the City. Visit Volunteer Evanston for more information.

Stormwater Dance and Ideas Featured at “On Site: Putting Dance on the Map”
LakeDance, in partnership with the City of Evanston Office of Sustainability, is collecting design ideas from residents on how they deal with standing water in their home or yard. Please send us a jpeg or pdf of a photo, drawing, or written description of your existing or proposed storm water mitigation project by November 1 to clare@lakedance.org. Suggestions may include: porous pavers, trees, rain gardens, rain barrel/downspout disconnection, or even your story about how you watch your lawn flood and slowly drain. The clearest 100 designs will be displayed at a public dance event on November 3rd promoting “green” solutions to urban flooding. This event is part of “On Site: Putting Dance on the Map” which shares in Evanston’s 150th Birthday Celebration. Click here for more information on “On Site: Putting Dance on the Map.”

Information Meeting on Evanston’s STAR Communities Application Process October 15
The City of Evanston Office of Sustainability will host an information meeting on Tuesday, October 15 at 11:00 a.m. to provide an update on the City’s data collection process for the STAR Communities Pilot Program. The meeting will be held in the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center in Room 2404.

The meeting will include an overview of the STAR Communities Rating System, Evanston’s process and progress toward collecting data and insights into the initial data collection efforts. City staff will be available to explain specific data needs from community organizations and answer questions regarding current data requests. Community members and organizations who are involved with programs and services that contribute to a healthy environment, a strong economy and the well-being of the community are encouraged to attend.
Memorandum

To: Members of Administration and Public Works Committee
From: Suzette Robinson, Director of Public Works
       City of Evanston Environment Board
Subject: Proposed Creation of a Complete & Green Streets Ordinance
Date: September 23, 2013

Recommended Action:
Staff recommends the Administration and Public Works provide feedback on the Complete and Green Streets Ordinance stated in Attachment A.

Summary:
Many of the principals and practices of 'Complete Streets' (see details in Attachment A) are already being implemented in Evanston. A Complete Streets ordinance would formalize what is already occurring. The Department of Public Works requested the assistance and expertise of the Environment Board to develop the concept.

The Environment Board conducted research and developed a working document summarizing its findings regarding a Complete and Green Streets ordinance for consideration by the Administration and Public Works Committee. The working document is provided in Attachment A.

A Complete and Green Streets Ordinance will offer guidelines for Evanston's roadway and improvement projects, and could enhance Evanston's eligibility for grants or funding in the future. The working document includes background information, justification for an ordinance, complete and green street goals, and supplemental resources. Based on our conversations tonight, staff and the Environment Board will construct a specific ordinance (draft), for final draft by Legal, to be presented to Council on November 11. This timing will allow the City to receive credit within the STAR (Sustainabilty Tools for Assessing and Rating for Communities) system.
Attachment A

Evanston Environment Board

Working Document for Complete and Green Streets Ordinance

For Presentation to Administration & Public Works Committee

September 23, 2013

I. Introduction to the “Complete and Green Streets” Concept

Complete Streets. The concept of Complete Streets refers to a transportation policy and design approach that considers streets to be part of a network that serves users of all ages and abilities who use a variety of modes of transportation: motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users.

This means that streets are planned, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities, regardless of their mode of transportation.

It’s helpful to think of Complete Streets as a concept and an approach that applies to a network or system, and not a hard-and-fast rule that applies to any given street.

Green Streets. Green infrastructure or ‘green streets,’ as defined by the U.S. EPA, involves ‘an array of products, technologies, and practices that use (or mimic) natural systems to enhance overall environmental quality and provide utility services. Green infrastructure techniques use soils and vegetation to infiltrate, evaporate, and recycle stormwater runoff.’

Many of the elements that make streets more ‘complete’ - like narrower thoroughfares, landscaping features such as planters, street trees, islands, and curb extensions - also make them ‘greener,’ and satisfy sustainability goals by curbing storm water runoff, reducing the urban heat island effect, and improving air quality. Cleveland is an example of a city that has incorporated green infrastructure elements into its Complete Streets Ordinance (see appendix).

Why a Complete Streets ordinance?

1. Complete Streets makes fiscal sense. Planning safe and accessible features at the outset enhances funding opportunities and spares the expense of retrofits later. Increasingly, federal and state/municipal funding opportunities such as the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), as well as private grants from organizations such as Bikes Below, requires a Complete Streets policy or favors cities that demonstrate Complete Streets practices.
2. **Complete Streets makes economic sense**, bolstering economic growth and stability by providing access and efficient connections between residences, schools, parks, public transportation, offices, and retail destinations.

3. **Complete Streets improves safety** by reducing crashes through safety improvements. For example, Orlando, Florida reduced Edgewater Drive from four lanes to three with bike lanes and streetscape added. The change reduced crashes 35% and increased bicycling and walking by 23% and 30% respectively.

4. **Complete Streets means healthy streets** because they encourage more walking and biking, helping users of all abilities get exercise and maintain independence. The American Journal for Public Health notes “persons reporting a place to walk were significantly more likely to meet current recommendations for regular physical activity than were those reporting no place to walk. There was a direct relation between the convenience of the walking place and the proportion of respondents meeting current activity recommendations.”

5. **Complete Streets eases transportation woes**. More travel options help reduce traffic congestion. Designing streets only for automobiles reduces opportunities for safe travel choices that can ease traffic congestion: walking, bicycling, and taking public transportation. Half of all trips in metropolitan areas are three miles or less, and 28 percent are one mile or less, and many of those trips were very short.

6. **Complete Streets improves air quality and reduce GHG emissions** through reducing vehicle traffic. Approximately 14% of Evanston’s total CO2 emissions come from gasoline and diesel.

II. Sample Goals for Evanston’s Complete & Green Streets Ordinance

1. Enhance grant and funding options for Evanston projects by being a Complete Streets community.

2. Provide a network of safe travel options for Evanston’s diverse population of all ages and abilities, connecting transit systems, regional trail systems, commerce and retail areas, and employment centers for bicycle, pedestrian and vehicle travel.

3. Reduce the environmental impact of our transportation infrastructure by incorporating green infrastructure strategies to reduce waste, storm water runoff and energy consumption.

4. Maintain Evanston’s status as a leader in sustainable and inviting communities.

5. Develop and maintain Evanston’s unique quality of place as a destination for residents, businesses and visitors.

6. Promote a more active and healthy population by enhancing mobility options and encouraging walking and biking among Evanston citizens.
7. Create a useful framework that supports the goals of City guiding documents and can be used across City departments in planning and implementing multi-modal plans, policies, documents, and reviews.

III Adoption of Complete Streets Around the U.S. and Illinois

To date, 490 regional and local jurisdictions, 28 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia have adopted policies or have made a written commitment to do so.

In Illinois, there are 13 cities that have adopted a Complete Streets ordinance. Illinois cities/municipalities include: Chicago, Cook County, Oak Park, Des Plaines, Highland Park, Blue Island, Champaign/Urbana.

U.S. cities include Madison, Grand Rapids, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Dubuque.

IV Proposed Timeline

Sept. 23 - Presentation of Complete & Green Streets ordinance concept to A&PW

Oct. 10 - Environment Board meeting - revise draft ordinance

Nov. 11 - Present draft ordinance to Council for introduction

Goal: Ordinance in place by end of 2013

Appendix/References

Smart Growth America Complete Streets home page

Smart Growth America Green Streets Fact Sheet

What is Green Infrastructure? (EPA)

Caltrans Complete Streets

Cleveland Complete and Green Streets Ordinance