MEETING NOTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, April 11, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

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

Members Absent: Ellen King, Laurie Zoloth, Likwan Cheng, Stephanie Brown

Staff: Suzette Robinson, Director of Public Works, Catherine Hurley, Sustainable Programs Coordinator, Laura Ruther, Clerk II

Presiding Member/s: Susan Besson

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL of MINUTES from February. Annotated minutes approved. All in favor.

WELCOME to new Board Members – Samuel Headd and Todd Schwier.

III. CITIZEN COMMENT

Community Gardens - T. Clark noted to board high demand for community gardens. Lottery had more than 50 people attending with only 17 spots

IV. STAFF UPDATES

STAR Communities – C. Hurley – Noted to EEB that this is the opportunity to be involved with STAR Communities grading and evaluation for Evanston. STAR scope is broad but includes environmental aspects. Susan Besson and Kevin Glynn volunteered to assist in providing feedback for City’s submission for STAR pilot program.

Bike Corrals – H. Bartling inquired about last year’s pilot project. S. Robinson updated board that EAC approved/agreed 5-yr contract for 2 metered spaces for Apr–Nov use as bike coral at a $1500/mo. fee. She will be presenting this to Council Tuesday, April 16. Board discussed different evaluation processes for establishing fees for leasing parking spaces and determining how large the racks should be and where a rack is needed. Future corrals suggested- (Central St., Dempster St., Main St. Metra area). Discussion included broad spectrum of issues including lost meter revenue, environmental impact (emissions), destination value, increased traffic to retailers for future consideration – including looking at an
aggregate of parking meter revenue for 2011 and 2012 on Benson to help in determining appropriate value of meter space.

Bike Paths – S. Robinson updated Board sharing retailers’ concerns about Davis St. bike bath resulting in loss of 7 parking spaces between Hinman and Ridge. This plan is before council on Tuesday, April 16th.

Board also discussed the problem of delivery trucks parked for long periods of time on Church St. between Chicago Ave and Orrington. SR confirmed that reporting delivery trucks to police will result in ticketing.

V. BOARD BUSINESS

MODIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENT BOARD MEMBERSHIP SIZE – MAYOR’S RESPONSE & NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Efforts were initiated to add Board Members to EEB according to the By-laws which specifies 13 members. Since initiative, EEB has gained 4 new members with one more member in the pipeline.

VI. COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPT. RESPONSE TO EEB MEMO REGARDING NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENS/URBAN FARMS

CED responded that EEB role good and prompted further review. The Review clarified:
As relates to Urban Farms
- Only allowed in I districts (Zoning)
- Allows special use within districts with permit
- Retail not permitted – incidental sales considered
S. Robinson will advise Board next time Urban Gardens are discussed, currently under further review.

VII. COMPLETE STREETS ORDINANCE

As background for new members Board reviewed definition of ‘Complete Streets’ – the concept behind ‘Complete Streets’ is that streets should balance and consider all modes of transportation (e.g. bicycles, pedestrians, wheelchairs, cars…), recognizing and in consideration of safety, health, environment, and community.

S. Besson proposed titling this document ‘COMPLETE and GREEN STREETS’ that would encompass environmental (e.g. storm water) elements and serve as a ‘guiding’ document for Evanston streets and planning projects.

Susan B. suggested that in preparation and to be most efficient in reviewing other cities’ ordinances, EEB should now discuss and develop goals customized to Evanston and review other ordinances with these goals in mind.

The Board discussed 2 types of goals: Vision Goals and Measurable Goals. Measurable goals address accountability, i.e. lower emissions, fewer accidents. Vision goals describe what ‘Complete and Green’ streets will do for the city. The ordinance would mandate a process that considers the environment and all modes
of transportation. Additionally, the Board discussed the importance of objectively vetting the ‘Complete Streets’ document with the community.

Board tasked themselves to review Cleveland’s ordinance, a noted excellent ‘complete streets’ ordinance, and begin shaping goals for next meeting.

VIII. ROUNDTABLE
H. Bartling brought to the Boards attention the recent approval by the zoning department of a landscape waste facility allowing yard waste on site near Home Depot. The property is currently a junk yard. S. Robinson confirmed that although there was approval it was early in the process and there would be more permitting required and opportunity for review by the community and EEB.

IX. MEETING CONCLUSION
The meeting was concluded at 9:00pm.

NEXT MEETING – May 9, 2013