MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, May 10, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

Members Present: Susan Besson, Suzanne Waller, Kevin Glynn, Jill Franklin, Likwan Cheng, Anne Viner

Members Absent: Paige Finnegan, Laurie Zoloth, Ellen King, Hugh Bartling

Staff Present: Catherine Hurley, Sustainability Coordinator, Michelle Cain, Executive Secretary, Public Works Department

Presiding Members: Susan Besson

I. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
   A. S. Besson called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
   B. Minutes from the April meeting will not be approved until the June meeting.

II. CITIZEN COMMENT
   There was no citizen comment.

III. STAFF UPDATES
   S. Besson introduced the staff updates. C. Hurley and M. Cain provided both updates on paper in order to save additional time for the strategic planning item. C. Hurley’s update included information on Community Choice Aggregation, the Evanston Green Ball and a Composting Survey Update. The Environment Board members congratulated C. Hurley on achieving a 100% renewable energy mix.

   S. Besson also described two of the three new agenda management tools developed by M. Cain in order to better organize meeting preparation. While the Agenda Management Calendar was received well and self-explanatory, M. Cain provided additional background on the Board Agenda Schedule.

   The Environment Board members will continue to submit any agenda items to the Chairs. S. Besson encouraged the Board members to use this tool to open greater communication between the Board members in between meetings. M. Cain stated that this tool can be used for the Board to submit items to staff. This would allow for staff to show the Board or Chairs the upcoming items at a moment’s notice. The expectation is that the Board members will submit agenda items to M. Cain two meetings prior. The agenda schedule would then be sent to the Chairs on the day of the meeting in order to act as a guide when developing the upcoming meeting agendas. The Environment Board members were excited about the items and expressed gratitude to their development.
A sample item on the Board Agenda Schedule with regard to bird-friendly buildings acted as a segue for S.Waller to announce an upcoming meeting at Northwestern University. She stated that on Monday, May 21, Northwestern would be holding a breakfast with Donnie Dan and Judy Pollock to discuss bird-friendly buildings on campus. S.Waller stated that her intention for the meeting is to build momentum and consensus regarding the topic of bird-friendly buildings. She was asked by other Northwestern faculty if an ordinance was in the works at the City? C.Hurley believes that if the City is represented at the meeting, Steve Griffin, Director, Community & Economic Development would be the appropriate representative. It appeared the concern was whether it was appropriate to have Mr. Griffin attend and if he did, in what capacity? Mr. Griffin could attend just to obtain knowledge on the topic, act as a representative for the City on possible development of an ordinance, etc. S.Waller stated that she will consider whether City attendance is appropriate at this time.

S.Besson asked C.Hurley if she would like to add anything to updates provided in the packet. C.Hurley stated that the Green Ball was already showing signs of strong success as it was already almost sold out and probably would be prior to the date of the event. She encouraged the Board members to take a poster to put up in common areas to promote the Ball further. A.Viner asked whether the EEB would have a presence at the Ball considering another Board she is a member of would having a presence. C.Hurley stated that she will be attending the Ball and would be happy to bring anything along. Recognizing the opportunity to promote the Board and possibly recruit potential new members, the Board agreed on creating a resume for the Board’s achievements. S.Besson offered to develop the single page document.

IV. STRATEGIC PLAN
   A. Review of Draft Working Document
      1. Sub-Committee Discussion of Strategic Priorities (2012-2013)
         a. (1) Transportation
            - (1.1) K.Glynn provided background on his group’s three objectives for the strategic plan. The first objective is promoting greater transparency and community awareness surrounding issues, such as striping streets and traffic decisions made. He stated that the code clearly gives authority to the Traffic Engineer.
            - (1.2) The second objective is looking at more opportunities for bike parking and a bike parking ordinance using the recommendations in the 2002 Bike Plan and 2008 MMTP.
            - (1.3) The third objective is creation of a bike fleet for municipal employees. K.Glynn requested that this topic be discussed at the next meeting considering E.King took ownership of this topic. S.Besson was curious to how something like this would look in action. It was mentioned that there are other cities that have bike fleets. C.Hurley stated that currently there is only a police bike fleet in Evanston.
         b. (2) Waste
(2.1) The Veolia topic is an important one raised by Mayor Tisdahl. As a result, the Board wants to keep it a part of their strategic plan. However, the strategic plan should be written to articulate goals more generically, without naming Veolia specifically. The goal should be to improve the situation and support the City and Neighborhood Group’s efforts. If the Board is too specific about Veolia it creates vulnerability should there be another “Veolia” show its face in the future. A.Viner stated that she met with the President of the Neighborhood Group per the Group’s request. They wanted Ms. Viner’s assistance, but both parties were uncertain to what that mean? Did they need her legal expertise, Environment Board support, etc.? The Board agreed that Ms. Viner should define her status with the group and never mix her legal advice with her Board status as she suggested. The Board made the decision to streamline 2.1, remove Veolia and make it more general.

(2.2) The goal of 2.2 is to support efforts to increase use of reusable bags. It was stated that there may be a bill passed that would prohibit the City from passing an ordinance prohibiting a ban on disposable bags. With this in mind, the Board determined that their goal should be to support efforts to encourage the use of reusable bags and encourage marketing, education and incentives for their use.

(2.3) Item 2.3 focuses on increasing composting. While Board members liked looking into the current composting programs of the City and promoting the best programs, the goal appeared unclear. The Board agreed that they could be the “gatekeepers” of information for those community groups that do research on composting, but they would not be the individuals to collect that information. Likwan offered to provide information on compostable materials. There was some discussion over the types of composting that could be done. While some composted materials can be used as fertilizer others can be used for power.

(2.4) Goal four centered around deconstruction in order to recycle used building materials. Why shouldn’t there be an incentive to reusing building materials? This topic has the potential to be an ordinance, so it was agreed that it should possibly be placed in an “a la carte” topic area with the bird-friendly buildings piece. The reason is because both have ordinance potential. Concern was raised over how to proceed with topics like these because of previous bad experiences pushing ordinances through Council.

c. (3) Infrastructure

(3.1 & 3.2) The main goal is to incorporate green infrastructure into City projects. S.Besson felt that Sheridan road would be a great opportunity for incorporating awareness of the efforts because it is such a large project on a large thoroughfare. One way to draw attention would be to post signs that explain the different green elements used on Sheridan. It was related back to a project that ceased use of weed killer on grass and the signs that explained the environmental effects of this choice. Although some people
complained because dandelions were growing, more people were excited about the information provided. It was also discussed whether green infrastructure referred solely to groundwater. It was agreed that it can be specific or refer to multiple effects. While the original goal on the strategic plan draft was specific, the Board agreed to keep it broad to allow for greater opportunity. It was also discussed that perhaps one way they could be more active in City projects is by asking to see plans the Traffic Engineer is working on to suggest some green alternatives.

- **(3.3)** The goal is to work toward establishing a tree protection ordinance. Currently, most villages/cities have an ordinance regarding tree protection. Generally, these ordinances require residents to place a deposit for tree removal in case of damage. By developing an ordinance for tree protection it protects a natural resource and is beneficial for property value.

2. **Next Steps for September Presentation**
   a. Each sub-committee will re-visit their respective topics and refine and revise them for May 31, 2012.

V. **OPEN DISCUSSION**
   None

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**
   The meeting was concluded at 9:03 pm.

**NEXT MEETING – Thursday, June 14, 2012**

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Cain