Evanston Environment Board
7:00 p.m. Room 2200
Lorraine H. Morton Center
2100 Ridge Ave.

Thursday July 8, 2010

Board Chairs: Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan

Board Members Present: Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan, Likwan Cheng, Susan Kaplan, Suzanne Waller, Kevin Glynn, Dan Cox, Eli Port

Board Members Absent: Daniel Biss, Gemariah Borough, Anne Viner, Hugh Bartling

Community Members Present:

Staff Present: Paul Schneider Public Works
Carl Caneva Health Department

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chair Finnegan

I. Motion to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2010 by D. Cox, second by S. Waller passed unanimously.

II. Citizen Comment

III. News
   a. Backyard Hens – Chair Finnegan announced the Backyard Hen ordinance was held in committee. The vote was split 2-2, and was held for the August Human Services meeting. Discussion by the committee was held about zoning, accessory structure, and penalties/enforcement. The Environment Board also submitted a letter indicating the breadth of work by the board.
   b. Wind- The RFI closed June 30, 2010, Chair Finnegan reported 12 or so requests were received
   c. Board Members- Chair Finnegan announced there is one vacant member position. No updates have been received by the City of Evanston regarding the position

IV. Multi-Modal Plan
   a. Mr. Schneider, City Engineer of the Public Works Department was introduced and gave a presentation on the City’s Multi-Modal Plan (MMP)
      • The strategic plan identified multi- transportation plans and the multi-modal plan was constructed to bring the different aspects of each plan into one cohesive plan.
      • Two committees were founded containing aldermen and community members focused on policy and technical aspects.
      • In April 2009 Council accepted the document
• **Mr. Schneider** indicated there is a standing committee focused on Parking focused on the MMP as well as the Rules Committee extending their role and involving elements of the MMP.

• **Chair Besson** asked if the MMP is similar to the Climate Action Plan (CAP), **Mr. Schneider** indicated it is not part of the City Code. He stated the plan is a guide for practices rather than a policy.

• **Mr. Schneider** indicated that in the past Evanston Residents utilized public transportation at a higher rate, but he indicated this is changing.

• The City of Evanston is involved in the Safe Routes to School Project as well as prioritizing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) routes.

• **Mr. Schneider** indicated the City’s bike infrastructure has been improved and expansion is being explored.

• He indicated one of the issues is the fragmented park structure in Evanston not easily providing one continuous path through the city.

• Residents are interested in alley paving due to the City not plowing and for drainage issues.

• **Mr. Schneider** indicated the alleys are sloped in a “v” shape to encourage drainage. He indicated a great opportunity for permeable paving on the east side of the City of Evanston due to the high sand content.

• **Mr. Schneider** indicated the supply of parking spaces outweighed the need in the downtown area.

• One of the goals of the MMP is to cut down on driving so that residents can walk to public transportation.

• **E. Port** asked if Public Transportation is used to carry people around or in and out of Evanston. **Mr. Schneider** indicated it was mostly in and out of Evanston, no formal studies have been conducted.

• The City of Evanston (COE) has released a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for bus shelters (CTA, PACE) revenues would be shared with COE. RFQ was for 50 or so stops.

• **Mr. Schneider** indicated Evanston continues to be a “wave” stop, there were not many bus stops but residents can stop a bus by flagging.

• **Chair Finnegan** asked about the difference between a lane and a bike route. Mr. Schneider indicated the lanes are demarcated on the road while the route is a sign indication (share the road).

• **Mr. Schneider** indicated a challenge with parking and trees in the parkway.

• **K. Glynn** asked if the idea of having a bike lane closer to the curb in parking areas had been explored.

• **Mr. Schneider** indicated the best practice for bike traffic is for them to be recognized and to act like motorized vehicles. He indicated a concern for safety as more bicycles are added to the system.
• **E. Port** questioned what other cities looked like. **Mr. Schneider** indicated most of the bike paths were along ComEd lines.

- **Mr. Schneider** indicated progress in the protection of pedestrians with regards to the condition of sidewalks and crosswalks.
- The City of Evanston provides routing information for trucks coming into town.

- **Chair Besson** asked about COE and Northwestern University (NU) collaboration. **Mr. Schneider** indicated NU has an institute for Public Safety for Traffic Engineers. At this time COE does not take advantage of the program. NU had been contacted to get involved with traffic and accident studies.

• **D. Cox** asked about the impact of car sharing. **Mr. Schneider** indicated that car sharing was minimal as far as impact to the MMP.

• **S. Kaplan** questioned what the incentives might be to park in the garages then boarding public transportation to get to the city now that gas prices have decreased.

- **Mr. Schneider** indicated a want from the City Manager’s Office to readdress parking at the city level on the whole.

- **Chair Finnegan** asked if there is an update for the plan, **Mr. Schneider** indicated that yes, there will be updates via the Parking Committee.

- **Chair Finnegan** asked about incentives for low emissions vehicles; **Mr. Schneider** indicated there has been discussion about preferential spaces.

- **K. Glynn** asked about infrastructure for electric cars. Mr. Schneider indicated a want, but there was a revenue issue.

- **Chair Finnegan** asked members to review the MMP for discussion on the September meeting.

V. **Strategic Plan Discussion**
   a. **Internal City Code Revisions**
      - **C. Caneva** indicated there is a movement to change ordinances throughout the City of Evanston, a memo to the CMO will be issued in August and there will be an update for the September meeting.
   b. **Stormwater Management**
      - More information will be provided in September

VI. **Roundtable**
   a. **Calendar of events**
   b. **EB page on City Website**
      - Bylaws
      - Link to Code establishing the Environment Board
      - IPM Resolution
      - Green Building Ordinance

Motion to adjourn made by D. Cox seconded by Kevin Glynn at July 8, 2010 passed unanimously.
NEXT MEETING – October , 2010

Please remember that Board members are expected to attend all meetings. Please contact Carl Caneva, 847-859-7831 or ccaneva@cityofevanston.org if you are unable to attend this meeting.

All meetings of the Evanston Environment Board are open to the Public. The City of Evanston is committed to making all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons needing mobility or communication assistance should contact Brian Barnes, Inclusion Specialist, Health and Human Services Department at (847) 448-2054 (Voice), bbarnes@cityofevanston.org or 847-448-8052 (TDD).