AGENDA

I. Approval of Minutes from June meeting (Attachment).

II. Citizen Comment

III. Staff Update (Attachment)
   A. Suzette Robinson, Director of Public Works
   B. Catherine Hurley, Sustainable Programs Coordinator

IV. Strategic Plan
   A. Transportation Work Plan (30 min)
   B. Waste Work Plan (30 min)
   C. Green Infrastructure Work Plan (30 min)
   D. Board Effectiveness Work Plan (20 min)

V. Roundtable

NEXT MEETING – September 13, 2012

Please remember that Board members are expected to attend all meetings. Please contact Michelle Cain, 847-859-7837 or mcain@cityofevanston.org if you are unable to attend this meeting.

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MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, June 14, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

Members Present: Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan, Suzanne Waller, Kevin Glynn, Ellen King, Hugh Bartling, Jill Franklin, Laurie Zoloth

Members Absent: Anne Viner, Likwan Cheng

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

Presiding Members: Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan

I. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
   A. S. Besson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
   B. Minutes from the April and May meeting were approved. P. Finnegan and E. King abstained from the vote to approve the May minutes.

II. CITIZEN COMMENT
   There was no citizen comment.

III. STAFF UPDATES
   S. Robinson provided an update on the bike corral pilot in front of Evanston Athletic Club. Pictures were sent with the packet showing the bike corral was being used to capacity leaving cyclists to lock bikes on nearby parking meters and trees. S. Robinson stated that a picture was worth a 1,000 words; however, the goal is now to determine whether the overflow is due to people not utilizing a bike rack down the street. The bike corral has been very successful thus far and although some complaints have been placed, Public Works is monitoring the area to report back results to the Council. P. Finnegan asked if any revenue figures had been calculated. None have been; however, it was stated that there may not be a change within that zone. S. Besson asked if any feedback was received from Evanston Athletic Club. S. Robinson stated that she has received some complaints, but most of them were from the patrons of the Church next door and physical therapy patients from Evanston Athletic Club. The physical therapy patients were upset because the corral being placed in the parking spaces reduces the number of open spaces in front of the athletic club. This impacts the patients because some of them are not considered handicapped, but do have a difficult time walking for long distances.
H. Bartling suggested that the City add the bike rack rings to the meters to assist with overflow at the corral. It was uncertain whether this was a recommendation in the 2002 Bicycle Plan.

The remainder of the updates were not discussed during the meeting as they were a part of one of the staff attachments.

IV. NEWS & UPDATES

A. Neighbors United (Veolia)

1. J. Franklin stated that she attended the Neighbors United meeting. The meeting included an introduction of the group, a video and discussion on what can be done about the Veolia situation. Two representatives from Veolia were in attendance; however they did not want to speak up. Instead, they prepared a letter of response that essentially said that the population near the dump site has changed, which is why there have been more complaints.

The Neighbors United would like residents impacted by the dump site to help out (Ward 2 and 5). To assist, they would like residents to lodge odor and noise complaints through 311. They stated that they are not opposed to a transfer station, just one in that particular location. While Veolia is their main concern, they do have a broader mission.

L. Zoloth suggested that letters be written from the Environment Board to current clients of Veolia asking them to reconsider using the site for their waste needs. Northwestern, the City’s Condo Program, Wilmette, Skokie and Chicago, and Loyola University were identified as clients who use Veolia’s site.

B. Evanston 150 Initiatives

1. L. Zoloth attended the Evanston 150 meeting. She stated that one concerning observation she made was that there is a lack of diversity among the groups. However, she said there were many wonderful groups, nonetheless. One great group was Edible Evanston who is concerned with sustainable food sources, community gardens, Walk & Roll, and composting. She stated Walk & Roll is concerned with making Evanston a more bikeable city. They mentioned interest in an initiative to turn the Mayfair rail spur into a community path similar to the concept of High Line in New York. The issue is; however, that the railroad company owns the land and wants a very high price for it. S. Robinson stated that one idea she has been discussing that would be mentioned at an upcoming meeting is the possibility of blocking off Sherman by Fountain Square for shopping, kiosks, markets, etc. They were also interested in Bike the Ridge and car-free days downtown. Clean-N-Green is interested in carbon neutral options, sustainable energy, changes in building codes, etc. This reminded L. Zoloth of the interests of the Environment Board. Market For All Seasons wants to work on ensuring there is a year-round farmer’s market in Evanston. The big discussion is over where this space would be since it needs to be large. The high school was mentioned; however, it was noted that there could be security concerns. Water, Water, Everywhere was the last group L. Zoloth noted. She said their
current agenda item is beautifying and getting use out of the “coastline” along the channel inside Evanston (Non-Sculpture Park side).

C. Bird-Safe Buildings at NU
   1. S.Waller met with some representatives at Northwestern as well as Autobon to discuss all of the new construction at NU and what can be done to protect the birds. She said she obtained a deeper understanding of why birds fly into the buildings. She said that it really gave them information to raise awareness of future projects considering some current projects can be harmful to the birds. However, NU would like to fix those issues to make the buildings more bird-friendly. The Autobon group provided great ways to fix their current problems and reported that Loyola University took heed to their suggestions and their bird deaths have gone down 75%.

   Concerning what can be done for the City, The Environment Board agreed that working to get an ordinance for new construction might be the best goal.

V. Strategic Plan
   A. Due to a limitation of time and some absences, the strategic plan was not fully reviewed. Follow-up will occur with A.Viner and L.Cheng. S.Waller talked about the goal of making a bike sharing program an ordinance as part of the Complete Streets item and a bike fleet and bike parking rules in Zoning was also mentioned by H.Bartling. It was also mentioned that Board Effectiveness would need to be discussed at the next meeting considering that item has not been discussed as well. The Environment Board agreed that the July 12 meeting would be dedicated solely to the strategic plan in order to prepare for the Rules Committee presentation in September.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION
   None

VII. ADJOURNMENT
   The meeting was concluded at 9:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, July 12, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Cain