MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, March 3, 2011
7:00PM
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., Room 2200

Members Present: Hugh Bartling, Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan, Kevin Glynn, Anne Viner, Suzanne Waller

Members Absent: Likwan Cheng, Dan Cox, Ellen King

Staff Present: Carl Caneva, Catherine Hurley,

Presiding Member: Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Co- Chair Besson called the meeting to order at 7:08p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of February Meeting
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February 10, 2011 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
I. Green Building Ordinance Update
   a. Chair Finnegan updated the Board on the actions of the new Green Building Ordinance Amendments. Stakeholder groups (representatives from EEB, CGE, Council, community) met with City of Evanston staff Feb. 23. New language was added and passed on Monday February, 28, 2011.
   b. Chair Finnegan indicated the want for green building expert members to modify the EBSMIR list to customize requirements for new construction.
   c. H. Bartling asked if there was a timeline. There is not, but Chair Finnegan suggested the group offer suggestions promptly

II. Stormwater Management Update
   a. C. Hurley updated the group with regards to storm water. L. Cheng, C. Hurley, and Hal Sprague met and indicated there was no conflict with the current city code. The group wanted to review current projects to address and provide information on storm water management.
b. A planned project located on Sheridan Road may offer an opportunity to display green infrastructure improvements. There may be some opportunities with parkways, and involving NU students.

c. C. Caneva indicated this project could be similar to a demonstration project in 2010 at Stockham Park which involved the Forestry Division and the Safer Pest Control Project.

d. Chair Besson stated the board would be interested in looking at a list of projects in order to make a bigger impact.

e. There was discussion amongst members about the benefits of a demonstration project for storm water management.

f. KG indicated there was an issue as City of Evanston projects do not have to follow the same path as private development.

III. Bikes and the MMTP

a. H. Bartling reported an interest in demonstration projects where parking and bike lanes is involved. He is researching the cost and benefits of striping.

b. KG indicated the cost was not the only issue, one of the issues was that the grants issued had restrictions

c. HB indicated he is studying how other communities resolve the funding and grant restriction issue.

d. HB indicated he is meeting with the Active Transportation Alliance (ATA)

STAFF REPORTS

IV. Composting Ordinance

a. CF asked if it is scheduled for council discussion March 14, 2011, the ordinance has been pushed back.

b. C. Hurley gave an overview of the Composting Ordinance, whose goal is to encourage proper composting. The draft ordinance is an amalgam of similar nationwide codes as well as the state of Illinois code.

c. KG asked about the registration, CH indicated it was voluntary and was a means to educate interested composters and foster community groups. C. Hurley indicated she has asked for help from the Evanston Gardening Club, the University of Illinois Extension. The hope was to have a manual and ordinance ready at the same time.

d. KG asked what the outcome would be if there was a nuisance complaint, what would be the outcome.

e. PF asked how often ordinances are passed in order to promote a behavior.
f. HB indicated there was an active program in Seattle that was less restrictive and was concerned that this ordinance would discourage.
g. HB stated he was concerned about the inability to utilize hen feces as fertilizer.
h. CF asked if there have been complaints about composting.
i. CH answered she was unsure about complaints
j. CF asked how this addressed a pile of leaves
k. AV indicated the ordinance concerned her due to its vagueness, and was unsure that it complies with the Illinois Composting Act. She stated it would do the opposite, it would instead deter. The nuisance ordinance will take care of any violations. AV suggested amending the current nuisance to state that wind blown compost and odoriferous compost shall constitute a nuisance.
l. CF and SB indicated that if encouraging composting is the goal, that it would be better reached via education and outreach, and not through enacting an ordinance.
m. CH asked for the board’s opinion on how to update the code
n. AV indicated that education was the key, not regulations and fines.
o. HB indicated Lexington Kentucky reuses old garbage receptacles and turns them into compost bins.

V. Chicago’s Bottled Water Tax
   i. CH provided the board with a recent news article indicated the Chicago tax on bottled water was upheld.
   ii. The board thanked her for the information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
VI. Wind RFI Update
   a. KG reported an Ad hoc Committee had been formed and will be announced by the Mayor at the March 14 City Council meeting.
   b. KG reported that Representative Robyn Gabel introduced a bill (HB 1558), the ‘Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy Council Act’, that would study wind energy on Lake Michigan and report to Governor Quinn and Illinois General Assembly by end-2011. He recommended CH offer to serve on this Council.

VII. Backyard Chickens
   i. 3-4 permits issued; no one else has applied

VIII. Veolia Transfer Station – no news.
IX. Milk Carton Recycling
i. AV reported preliminary conversations had been held. She will be surveying schools to find out what work is already being done
ii. One of the issues is if the cartons have milk in them once they are emptied

X. STEW Map
i. CNT is producing a map – Stew-MAP (the Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project) - of environmental stewardship organizations and activities (http://StewMap.CNT.org).
ii. Chair Finnegan encouraged everyone to share with other interested groups.

XI. North Shore Environmental Commissioners – Report from February 5th Meeting
i. Chair Besson met with the NSEC, and discussed the energy profiles that CNT presented information as a tool. EPA administrator Judy Beck gave an overview of water issues, and the scope of the project. There is a Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Initiative.
ii. AV indicated EPA Region 5 has a great lakes water initiative. She indicated a focus of the effort was restoration and erosion.
iii. CH indicated at the meeting she was very encouraged when comparing Evanston with other municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS

XII. Chair Finnegan introduced Laurie Zoloth, a new member of the Environment Board. She is a Bioethics professor at Northwestern University. She is currently working with NU students on a tree planting program in the City’s 5th ward. The Board welcomed her.

XIII. AV stated the State of Illinois may require testing for a lower amount of Hexavalent Chromium and asked how does this impact the City of Evanston’s Activities? C. Caneva indicated he would research and report back to the Board.

XIV. HB reported on the aldermanic meeting held for the 2nd ward aldermanic appointment. HB offered to speak to the new alderperson.

XV. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:18p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carl Caneva
Health Department