MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, November 10, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

Members Present: Paige Finnegan, Jill Franklin, Hugh Bartling, Susan Besson, Likwan Cheng, Kevin Glynn, Suzanne Waller

Members Absent: Laurie Zoloth, Anne Viner, Ellen King

Staff Present: Carl Caneva, Division Manager

Community Members Present: Stephen McMillan

Presiding Members: Paige Finnegan, Susan Besson

I. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
   a. There being a quorum, Chair Finnegan called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
   b. Minutes from October motion to approve Chair Besson, S. Waller seconded minutes approved unanimously

II. CITIZEN COMMENT
   a. No Comments

III. STAFF REPORTS
   a. City Code Update
      i. C. Caneva indicated the only item relating to code updates on upcoming C. Council agenda is on 12/12/11 Article 1 Municipal Elections. He will follow-up and continue to check the Council agenda against the Board's proposed amendments.
   b. Environment Board Roster
      i. No further changes to the Board. C. Caneva will email the list to members.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   a. Disposable Bags
      i. Members discussed the bag ordinance recommendations. P. Finnegan summarized the recommendation made by J. Franklin and L. Zolath at Council on October 24, 2011. The City Council opposed the Board's recommendations. The Board is concerned regarding the manner in which responses to questions from Ald. Fiske were presented, the reception by Council, and the process. P. Finnegan asked for a status update on the recommendation from Staff. P. Finnegan asked the Board to decide next moves for the Disposable Bag Recommendation. P. Finnegan then asked how
the Board could be more effective. C. Caneva stated there was no update on the recommendation on how to proceed.

ii. P. Finnegan and S. Besson stated the questions raised were legitimate, but the process and tone of the meeting was inappropriate.

iii. K. Glynn stated the take away would be to have items Council-ready prior to leaving the Board. Once items left the Board it was out of the Board’s hands.

iv. H. Bartling stated he didn’t see community support, and still doesn’t see it. He sensed the supporters did not turn out to the meeting. Mr. Bartling was concerned about the specifics of the fee.

v. S. Waller asked if the board should be pointing out the problem of bags rather than focus on the fee.

vi. H. Bartling stated he was unclear about the problem, too much plastic bag use? Litter?

vii. Chair Besson questioned clarity of the purpose and mission from the start regarding the disposable bag issue.

viii. J. Franklin recalled asking months ago for guidance on how much outreach to other groups and retailers, and was told the Board would offer policy recommendations but is not expected to perform outreach.

ix. L. Cheng indicated the questions raised were very specific and the Board did not have evidence to address the questions.

x. Chair Finnegan stated in the case of the Green Building Ordinance and Hen Ordinance there was an ordinance and the recommendation was only a discussion item. Chair Finnegan expressed a need to figure out the best and most effective process with regard to moving these issues forward.

xi. J. Franklin stated she reviewed the minutes and found there was to be an action plan not an ordinance.

xii. K. Glynn asked the output level of other City committees to compare. C. Caneva indicated he could not speak to the actions or the output of other boards and commissions.

xiii. Chair Finnegan stated the Board wanted scrutiny from the Council to provide a future path of action. The issue again was the process.

xiv. S. Waller asked if the task would be to address the questions from Ald. Fiske and report back.

xv. C. Caneva will find out by the December meeting where the recommendation lies and report back.

xvi. Chair Finnegan asked the board if the issue of disposable bags should be used for the strategic plan

xvii. J. Franklin and S. Waller indicated they are interested in continuing the issue. Agreed the cause was worthwhile to pursue.

xviii. K. Glynn asked about the process, to what extent should the Board consider the politics at hand? Should the ordinances and recommendations be politically crafted to best be presented?

xix. H. Bartling stated the process was as important as the topic, suggested a more deliberative process to be more effective.

xx. L. Cheng reiterated Board recommendations needed to come from evidence. The one place where there is evidence is at the level of the landfill.
xxi. J. Franklin reviewed the information presented by Sustainability Programs Coordinator Catherine Hurley on the plastic bags with regards to efficiency.

xxii. J. Franklin asked if the Board was going to issue a response. Chair Finnegan stated the board would wait for a status update then pursue the matter if necessary.

xxiii. Mr. McMillan, Whole Foods, asked what the future holds. Chair Besson stated there was no action to take forward, but the Board would be considering efforts to address disposable bags. Chair Finnegan stated to Mr. McMillan the Environment Board’s work was one step in a long process.

b. Multi-modal Plan

i. H. Bartling asked about the Transportation and Parking Committee (T&PC) and requested an update. He understood the T&PC to be in favor of an Environment Board member to be on the Committee but, it was not on the Rules Committee agenda. C. Caneva will find clarification on the next steps. H. Bartling summarized the Bike Corral Demonstration Recommendation (see November Packet). H. Bartling collaborated with Public Works and proposed a corral at the Evanston Athletic Club (EAC). Chair Finnegan asked if the project should be taken to T&PC. Chair Besson asked what the process should be. Chair Finnegan asked if Downtown Evanston would be willing to split the cost of the corral. Chair Besson stated the idea of lost revenue is short-sighted, as monies lost in meter revenue could be more than recouped in increased business by numerous cyclists. H. Bartling stated you could fit 10 bikes in the space of 1 car.

ii. H. Bartling stated both the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan (MMTP) and the Downtown Plan both have recommendations for more zero emission vehicles.

iii. J. Franklin asked who the authors of the MMTP were. Chair Finnegan stated the study was authored by consultants.

iv. J. Franklin asked about the issue of car congestion and how the corral would address this issue. She was concerned with the argument about congestion, as a driver her she could not use a bike, and thought taking away a parking space would increase congestion.

v. P. Finnegan stated there is a parking surplus, there may be small amounts of street parking but there is plenty of parking in the numerous ramps around town and in the downtown.

vi. S. Waller stated that she bikes from Central St. to Downtown when it’s not as busy. As the culture changes the usage of bikes will also change.

vii. Chair Besson indicated the City’s award-winning entry for the Governor’s Sustainability Award referenced increased bike parking created by City.

viii. P. Finnegan reviewed the memorandum distributed by C. Caneva and C. Hurley concerning bicycle expenditures, enforcement, and registration. She called attention to Part II regarding registration and enforcement. There was concern about the discrepancy
between registration and enforcement. For example, the number of violations issued to bicyclists by police increased 25% from 2009-2010 and another 26% from 2010-2011 while the number of registration efforts fell by 57% between 2009-2010 and an additional 44% between 2010-2011.

ix. K. Glynn stated the memo showed an investment in bike lanes and the riding needs to be supported by a corral for parking.

x. Chair Finnegan stated the want to move the recommendation to Human Services.

xi. The Board agreed the recommendation be moved forward to Human Services.

xii. H. Bartling asked if the exact locations proposed should be indicated, the Board indicated the sites should be located.

xiii. Chair Besson asked if there would be too much focus on sites.

xiv. J. Franklin indicated she agreed with the idea of providing locations for bike racks and hoped other aldermen would be interested.

xv. K. Glynn motioned for the recommendation to go to Human Services with amendments and the map indicated motion was withdrawn.

c. Strategic Plan

i. Mission

1. Chair Besson made changes to the draft mission, Chair Finnegan asked for input about the changes. (See November Packet)

ii. Guiding Principle

1. Chair Besson stated the guiding principle would be to support the climate action plan, MMTP, Lake Front Plan, Strategic Plan, Downtown plan, Bicycle Plan.

2. J. Franklin supported the changes and agreed they needed to include but not be limited by those referred to in item 1.

iii. SUZANNE WALLER moved to approved mission and guiding principles in the bylaws, 2nd ed by K. GLYNN. Motion passed unanimously

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. 2012 meeting dates as presented in agenda approved, no changes necessary.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION

a. K. Glynn requested a discussion on the goals. He indicated his understanding that the Board was interested in bikes, bags, and he was interested in the powers of the traffic engineer.

b. S. Besson indicated an interest in transparency and Board efficacy.

c. Chair Finnegan stated the use of work groups was effective.

d. Chair Finnegan stated Stormwater Management, Commercial Composting, Deconstruction and the Evanston 150 should also be considered to guide the work of the Board.

e. The Board discussed not adding more items to the by-laws but instead address any topics that may surface.

f. The Board discussed the idea of formulating a template for process to be more effective.
g. L. Cheng is working with the Utilities department regarding the operation of the waterworks.

h. Chair Besson attended the CONSEC (what does CONSEC stand for?) meeting, a number of communities are looking into the idea of aggregating power.

i. L. Cheng asked about air pollution, its impact, and interest from the Board as a Board goal. Chair Finnegan asked how air pollution could be addressed by any guiding documents. S. Waller asked if the pollution had to do with automobiles. L. Cheng indicated it is regional pollution. Board indicated it may be beneficial to tie air pollution to the bike recommendation.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm
NEXT MEETING – Thursday, December 8, 2011

Respectfully Submitted,
Carl Caneva
Division Manager