MEETING NOTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, April 10, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

Members Present: Todd Schwier, Linda Young, Tom Clark, Hugh Bartling, Jamal Bowleg, Samuel Headd, Kevin Glynn

Members Absent: Ellen King, Husayn Allmart

Staff: Catherine Hurley, Sustainable Programs Coordinator, Suzette Robinson, Director of Public Works, Kenya Evans, Executive Secretary, Paulina Albazi, Special Projects Assistant

Presiding Member/s: Todd Schwier

I. CALL TO ORDER – Todd Schwier called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL of MINUTES from March. Minutes approved. T. Schwier made a MOTION to approve. T. Clark SECONDED. All in favor.

III. CITIZEN COMMENT
There were no citizens to discuss issues or concerns and board moved to next item on the agenda. However, S. Robinson followed up a citizen complaint regarding the fire trucks and stated that fire trucks are in the process of being upgraded electronically and truck operators will be given training at headquarters. Staff will provide additional details as the situation develops.

IV. STAFF UPDATES
S. Robinson directed the board’s attention and new board staff member Kenya Evans was introduced and each member of the board was reiterated. S. Robinson talked about the Commercial Waste Franchise presentation. She stated that the franchise garnered revenue upwards of $700,000 and franchise project participation increased to 35% or more in year one and in year five it was over 50%. S. Robinson asked for the board to consider more opportunities or incentives to bolster recycling even more. Residents participated when told they must participate but there are still hold outs. S. Robinson states that the contract is due to expire next year, so there is a need for an RFP to ensure as much participation as possible.
Second item raised for discussion was the state of the sycamore trees. S. Robinson reported that 63 trees were damaged due to the extreme cold and as a consequence, had severe splitting. All but two of the 63 trees were removed as a resident objected to the removal of those two trees. A meeting will occur regarding the two trees at a later date. S. Robinson informed the board that decaying trees
are a serious hazard and all available options were vetted before removing the trees. S. Robinson will see if there any further issues and inform the board of her findings.

H. Bartling supported a census for trees in the area which would include details regarding species and health status. S. Robinson stated that information regarding all trees in the area including species, health of the trees and other information is already collected by the city and inventory is used to layer any existing information in databases. T. Clark raised the issue of how the board could move to promote healthier trees with the public and C. Hurley reiterated the importance of events such as “I Heart Trees,” “Earth Day,” and resident voting for an honorary “Earth Tree,” to engage the public in creating an environment for healthier trees. Jamal B. then raised a concern regarding tree replacement. S. Robinson stated that even on private property, the city has regulations and requirements, including no planting in parkway, as well as what kinds can be planted due to trees like Ash and others falling prey to disease. S. Robinson reiterates the board’s continued commitment to trees and plant life as she stated that the board’s main focus was originally trees and ecology before expanding to other environmental issues.

V. Discussion of Environment Board Activities, Accomplishments

- **Review of Bylaws/Mission:**
  T. Schwier directed the board’s attention to the board’s bylaws and mission. T. Schwier supported bylaws that reflect an emphasis on environmental issues and not policies. He reflected on the Green Street Project and how the focus on codifying environmental issues should move to action and resolution. T. Schwier also stated that there should be more public engagement and citizen input activities. H. Bartling stated that time restraints could hinder board activities and that the board could be forum focused. T. Schwier suggested that the board could be split into subcommittees to address the lack of community engagement. K. Glynn supported T. Schwier’s suggestion. S. Robinson raised a concern that individual concerns of residents be balanced with concerns of residents as a whole due to possible disconnect regarding issues that segments of residents may or may not face. C. Hurley supported S. Robinson’s position and stated that unity and compromise would be an ongoing focus of the board.

- **Board Chair and Co-Chair Selection:**
  S. Robinson directed the board’s attention to the both the Chair and Co-Chair position selections. T. Schwier asked to the board if there were any interested parties, and reiterated his interest in the chair position. C. Hurley stated that there would be meeting processes and agenda preparation to adequately inform both the prospective chair and co-chair of their respective duties. Kevin Glynn then expressed interest in co-chair position. C. Hurley informed the board that the two positions would be interim until an official election next year in June. H. Bartling MOTIONED for T. Schwier and K. Glenn as chair and co-chair respectively. T. Clark SECONDED the motion. ALL IN FAVOR.
VI. RESEARCH OF BIKE PARKING FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS-FOR DISCUSSION (H. BARTLING)

T. Schwier and C. Hurley stated that there needed to be clarification on best practices for bike parking, including proximity, number of spaces and other details. H. Bartling will research ordinances and policies that exist in other cities regarding bike parking, including height and construction of bike rack structures. T. Clark raised a concern regarding ordinance enforced bike parking vs. incentivizing. K. Glynn stated that striking a balance between ordinance and choice is paramount and T. Schwier supported this point. S. Robinson stated that ordinances are useful and very much needed though it should be taken into account the concerns of citizens including safety. Places not deemed safe for bikers and their bikes often lead to citizens improperly securing their bikes onto places like trees and posts. S. Robinson suggested a public meeting to help develop input from community.

Board also discussed the importance of parking vs. bike parking to accommodate residents. C. Hurley commented that racks are needed for both residents and visitors so that racks are not completely booked. S. Robinson raised concerns about space needed for both car parking and bike parking. S. Robinson stated that other concerns with bike parking included sidewalk impediment and bike theft, though bike theft is higher with unlocked bikes. T. Clark voiced concerns about if these issues would be addressed before council and if board should come up with other recommendations. C. Hurley stated that these issues are being considered and S. Robinson stated that council is also researching into other solutions. Board then moved to discuss this matter further during the next meeting on May 8th, 2014.

VII. TOPICS AND QUESTIONS FOR EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY EVENT

C. Hurley informed the board that the “Earth Day” event would be at Fleetwood/Jourdain Community Center located on 1655 Foster Street on April 26, 2014 from 11:30a.m. to 2:30p.m. She stated that companies such as ComEd and Nicor Gas would be in attendance and residents could learn about efficient energy use. Food will be served and C. Hurley suggested the board could get a table or come and participate with outreach efforts.

VIII. SOLID WASTE SURVEY FOR COMMERCIAL FRANCHISE

Board moved to discuss questions for commercial entities during the next meeting on May 8th 2014.

IX. REVIEW OF BOARD MEET TIMES

L. Young stated that meeting time and date worked for her and would be in favor of board moving start time earlier rather than later or keeping the time the same. S. Robinson stated that moving meetings from Thursdays to another day of the week would not be practical due to room constraint and other civic center activities. T. Schwier and K. Glynn both supported an earlier meet time of 6:30pm, though T. Clark and J. Bowleg stated that 6:00pm would be better for their schedules. Board moved to discuss this at a later date.

X. ROUNDTABLE

There were no further comments or concerns regarding issues by the board.

XI. ADJOURNMENT
T. Schwier made a MOTION to adjourn. K. Glenn SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR
The meeting was concluded at 8:45pm.

NEXT MEETING – May 8th, 2014