MEETING NOTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, September 11, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

Members Present: Todd Schwier, Tom Clark, Samuel Headd, Linda Young, Kevin Glynn

Members Absent: Ellen King, Husayn Allmart, Hugh Bartling

Staff: Suzette Robinson, Public Works Director, Kenya Evans, Executive Secretary

Presiding Member/s: Todd Schwier(Chair)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Todd Schwier called meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL of MINUTES from August. Todd Schwier made a MOTION to approve. All in favor.

III. CITIZEN COMMENT
Resident Sarah Stewart was concerned about ongoing noise from various trucks in her neighborhood. She asked that someone look into the ways in which noise could be controlled. She suggested that the city look into the quieter trucks that run on natural gas that are often used in other cities. Ms. Robinson stated that the matter would be looked into and explained that Groot has certain routes they take in order to maximize recycling. Many of these routes that garbage and Groot trucks take are in a timelier and efficient fashion as compared to in the past when there were no set times for pick up. Ms. Robinson stated that the quieter trucks were a great idea; however, it would not be feasible for Evanston as the City has numerous low, narrow bridges that would impede the trucks from passing.

IV. STAFF UPDATES (ATTACHMENT)
S. Robinson explained that the City would be taking part in the upcoming event “Green Living Festival,” This event would take place on September 27, 2014, from 9am-3pm at 2024 McCormick Blvd. and would feature many different ways residents and visitors could lead more sustainable lives. With attractions like the “Livability Hub,” and the NU’s “Tiny House,” and demos about alternative transportation, City officials were looking forward to people being informed. The event would be sponsored by many companies such as Whole Foods, WinSol and Energy Pioneer. S. Robinson also updated the board on the September 7th event, “Streets Alive!” the City hosted. She stated that over 15,000 people participated in the event and many of Evanston’s largest businesses were able to connect with residents and visitors. She also informed the board of the “Bike the Ridge,” event which would take place on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014 from 9am-1pm. The event would be open to all residents and biking on Ridge Avenue would be permitted anywhere between Howard Street and Church. There would even be a Health and Wellness Corner located at Grey Park, at Ridge Ave. and Main Street.
S. Robinson also informed the board of the Utilities Department’s Mobile Tap Water Stations. These stations would reduce the need for plastic bottles by filling up resident and visitor container with fresh water. The station is a mobile water cart that also includes a drinking fountain and spout. By using these ideas and increasing conservation strategies, Robinson told the board the City will continue striving to be more sustainable.

V. FRESH WALGREENS PROPOSAL
S. Robinson also informed the board of a proposal for the Walgreens located at Simpson and Green Bay. This Walgreens is frequented by many of the fifth wards residents who need quick and easy access to items besides household staples and in fact, buys much of their food and other comestibles there. Walgreens officials, with input from residents and the City, were looking into carrying a wide variety of fresh foods, including fruits and vegetables. They are also considering a possible expansion of the store to accommodate the expanded choices and to allow for more comfortable shopping experience. This plan would possibly include leasing the spaces adjacent to the store in the same lot.

VI. SOLID WASTE DISCUSSION
S. Robinson informed the board of the ways in which solid waste from commercial entities could recycle and be more sustainable. S. Robinson explained that though there is more recycle material with commercial enterprises, there still exists the possibility of certain materials being mixed in as refuse. She explained that the intention was to increase diversion, or increase the rate at which items don’t go to the landfills but are instead used for recycling. K. Glynn asked if there was a possibility of residential and commercial processes. S. Robinson stated that this would not be feasible as residents pay their own waste fees and wouldn’t want an intermingling of the two. K. Glynn made a MOTION for the board to come up with strategies to increase diversion rates. T. Clark seconded this MOTION. All in favor.

VII. BIKE PARKING FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT
The board discussed the ways in which residential and commercial bike parking can be combined or created. T. Clark stated that condos and buildings can provide parking if developers could be convinced of bike parking viability vs. retail space that is underutilized. The board agreed that this was an issue that should be considered. S. Robinson also suggested that the board research and look into ways that not only could residents have bike parking available, but have secure parking. She stated that bike lockers could be used to secure bikes for parking. She also stated that there are many parking garages that offer bike parking but often they are underutilized. T. Clark supported this assessment and stated that perhaps residents are uninformed about where they can park their bikes, and perhaps businesses such as garages, could reach out to residents about bike parking.

VIII. ROUNDTABLE
T. Schwier informed the board about an article on coal tar used in street sealants, which could also be damaging to the environment. He noted that Winnetka
banned the use of these chemicals, and when he researched uses here in Evanston he found that it is used mostly in private lots. S. Robinson supported this and stated that the City uses permeable asphalt which is more environmentally friendly. Board moved to talk more about this in upcoming meetings.

IX. ADJOURNMENT
T. Schwier MOTION to adjourn. T. Clark seconded. All in Favor.

NEXT MEETING – October 9, 2014