MEETING NOTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, August 14, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2200

Members Present: Tom Clark, Samuel Headd, Linda Young, Hugh Bartling, Kevin Glynn

Members Absent: Ellen King, Todd Schwier, Husayn Allmart

Staff: Catherine Hurley, Sustainable Programs Coordinator, Kenya Evans, Executive Secretary

Presiding Member/s: Kevin Glynn(Co-Chair)

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

II. APPROVAL of MINUTES from May. Kevin Glynn made a MOTION to approve. All in favor.

III. CITIZEN COMMENT
Residents Janet Alexander Davis, Tanya Noble, and Dorothy Headd introduced themselves and were representing Evanston Neighbors United. They had no further comments or questions and wished only to speak on behalf of the Environmental Justice Committee.

IV. STAFF UPDATES (ATTACHMENT)
C. Hurley explained that the City would be taking part in the upcoming event “Evanston Streets Alive.” This event would foster relationships between community members and the natural resources of Evanston including the parks and local streets. The event would take place on Sunday, September 7 from 1pm-6pm and C. Hurley encouraged board members to be a part of this event. C. Hurley also introduced the Sustainability Fellow, Mr. Kumar Jensen. She explained that Mr. Jensen will act as a research resource on many of the environmental issues in Evanston including recycling and multi-family recycling as well as water conservation. He will also act as a support for the GreenBuzz website. C. Hurley also introduced Danielle Fayden, a current student at Northwestern University who will be researching environmental justice issues in Evanston.

V. PLASTIC BAG ORDINANCE
C. Hurley directed the board’s attention to the plastic bag ordinance. C. Hurley stated that in light of Chicago’s recently passing this ordinance, the City of Evanston made a move to do so as well. The ordinance was brought forth before City Council and was passed; it will affect stores with 10,000 square feet or more. Smaller stores within neighborhoods would still be allowed to carry plastic bags.
C. Hurley also explained that other issues regarding plastic bags and how they may affect communities in Evanston will be further researched.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGY
C. Hurley directed the board’s attention to the Environmental Justice Committee report. D. Fayden spoke about the Star Community Rating System for Energy (which recognizes sustainable communities), recycling and environmental justice. She stated that there has been little work done for environmental justice which is a field that encompasses all environmental issues as well as regulations and laws as it applies to all individuals within a community. She also stated that not many communities have been making progress with broad environmental justice issues and that Evanston will strive to overcome that by outlining what groups are affected by environmental issues and legislation and making plans for best practices. Evanston Neighbors United took the floor and advised the board on several issues. Tanya Noble requested that the committee resolve to speak about issues in ways community members can understand not only how they are affected but about viable options and things they can do to create change.

She further stated that individuals living on West Side of Evanston were often unaware of health risks associated with transfer station and other operations. Dorothy Headd also explained to the board why environmental justice is important to Evanston and suggested putting policies in place for many environmental justice issues. Janet Davis supported above statements and also commented that resolving important environmental justice issues in Evanston could attract developers and visitors. Danielle F. concluded that a Cook County solid waste ordinance will have to do reports on the transfer station and station will be told to keep records and statistics, thus aiding with push to create sound environmental justice strategies.

Linda Young also suggested that committee focus on positive issues being done in the community regarding these issues and Dorothy Headd agreed that there needs to be balance in place for all negative and positive issues.

Board agreed that there must be measures put in place to map data for environmental justice (metrics) and create more community involvement.

VII. BIKE PARKING FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT
H. Bartling stated that most bike updates would happen at a special city council meeting in September for biking. C. Hurley supported this point and stated that all suggestions, proposals and the like would be discussed further at Council. C. Hurley informed board that there have been some biking updates for the city, however, many of the proposals are not permanently set and must encompass a wide range of opinions, expert perspectives and terrain. Linda Y. reiterated her interest in multi-family dwellings will be considered in any bike parking plans. H. Bartling stated that even though most areas considered only commercial, more cities are beginning to look at multi-family bike parking as a viable option.

VIII. ROUNDTABLE
There were no items for discussion.
IX. ADJOURNMENT
K. Glynn MOTION to adjourn. T. Clark seconded. All in Favor.

NEXT MEETING – September 11, 2014