Thursday March 11, 2010

Board Chairs:       Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan

Board Members Present: Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan, Kevin Glynn, Suzanne Waller, Dan Cox, Anne Viner, Susan Kaplan, Gemariah Borough, Eli A. Port, Elizabeth Kinney,

Board Members Absent: William Gallagher, Daniel Biss, Aaron Solomon

Community Members Present: Carl Caneva Health Department

Meeting was called to order by Chair Finnegan at 7:03 P.M.

I. Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2010 motion to approve by A. Viner, seconded by D. Cox. Motioned passed unanimously.

II. Citizen Comment

III. News
   a. Wind Farm Updates
      a) K. Glynn stated that a meeting with Scandia Wind was held regarding the proposed wind farm. He has spoken to many additional contractors. The topic has been taken on by the City Manager’s Office and C. Collopy is working on the RFI. The RFI will be at City Council at the April 8. C Caneva will contact C. Collopy for an update for the next board meeting.

   b. Regional Consortium
      a) A. Viner stated that a meeting had been attended to consolidate the environmental efforts of other communities. The goal of these meetings is to increase dialogue.

      b) S. Kaplan asked about best practices via the Mayors Caucus. C. Caneva stated the NWMC has an Environmental Best Practices he would check with C. Collopy on the status.

   c. New Member Search (13th member and current member expirations)
      a) Chair Finnegan stated a new member would be added and invited to the next EB meeting.
      b) E. Kinney will be on the April 26, 2010 Council Agenda.
IV. IPM Status
   a. HHSC Update Date
      a) **S. Kaplan** stated the Human Services Committee had questions regarding the removal of the general term animal from the definition of pest. There was also confusion over the effect the potential ordinance had on the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District. The District will be specifically named in the ordinance. Pest is defined to reflect the EPA’s definition.
      b) **C. Caneva** will send the updated version to the legal department for changes at the next HSC meeting in April
      c) Change on page two city owned to city owned or leased
      d) Motion to approved revised resolution by **K. Glynn** motion, seconded by **S. Kaplan**, motion passed unanimously

V. Backyard Chickens
   a. **Chair Finnegan** opened the floor to discussion of the documents requested any and all questions for animal control should be posed specifically and
   b. **S. Besson** stated the first part of the ordinance is an amendment to a former ordinance restricting chickens. Questions posed:
      a) What if this action was only an amendment to the ordinance that was created to restrict use?
      b) **Chair Finnegan** requested removing the word poultry from the ordinance. **C. Caneva** stated the amendment would have to address the issue of other poultry that would be allowed in additional to chickens
      c) **D. Cox** stated he believed there were issues raised regarded the safety of the eggs.
      d) **S. Waller** asked if this was similar with regards to safety as growing vegetables
      e) **A. Viner** requested an official response from Animal Control regarding the issue of coyotes and other predatory animals
      f) **A. Viner** stated the City of Evanston has nuisance laws in effect that can address this issue.
      g) **E. Port** and **A. Viner** discussed that this ordinance may not address the desire of residents of Evanston to keep other poultry, such as ducks as pets as well.
      h) **Chair Besson** requested the Board refer to this issue as “hens” rather than chickens.
      i) **Chair Finnegan** stated that ducks and other animals could be considered if a constituency approaches the board. There will be ample time for them at Human Services and before City Council Meeting.
      j) **E. Kinney** asked what the enforcement was for violations of Title 9. **C. Caneva** stated that the fines range from $10- $500
      k) **E. Port** stated the board needs to anticipate issues that might arise rather than reacting.
      l) **Chair Finnegan** stated that all issues needed to be specifically presented, and that groups needed to be presented.
      m) Aaron Solomon stated that roosters make noise and wondered what the increase in coyotes was
      n) **Ellen King** stated she was working with DePaul University. The University polled cities that have recently passed pro-chicken ordinances. She indicated the responses of that query were
positive. Of the 20 city’s responding 18 viewed the changes as positive 2 were neutral. Issues that were raised: chickens without permits as well as setbacks from property line or buildings. There was no rise in complaints regarding nuisances or coyote attacks. She stated the results would be available in about a week.

o) **C. Caneva** will request a response about the coyote issue from Animal Control in writing for the next meeting.

p) Aaron Solomon stated he holds a Phd. in Agriculture and indicated chickens are no more an attractant than other pets.

q) **S. Besson** stated the idea of advocacy of chickens should be removed.

r) **Chair Finnegan** requested amending 9-4-5 to make hens an exception to the poultry excepting to the below. Number of hens and setback as well as questions on licensing.

s) **E. Kinney** requested the reading of the current nuisance ordinance. **C. Caneva** read section 8-4-2 of the City of Evanston Municipal Code.

t) **C. Caneva** will submit a legal request with the updated ordinance.

VI. Outreach

a. Evanston Eco-Exchange Next Steps

a) **D. Cox** and **K. Glynn** have been working toward the Eco-Exchange via web interface. There were concerns about the voting structure. The challenges: is the platform may not match with the City of Evanston platform.

b) **S. Besson** asked for a review on the project, where it might live conceptually. She imagined it being available from the homepage, and then redirects people elsewhere.

c) **Chair Finnegan** questioned if the want was to have The City of Evanston as the brand for the page.

d) **A. Viner** stated the goal was to have a clearinghouse of environmental activities and ideas

e) **K. Glynn** stated that the group should focus on the process rather than the technology.

f) **S. Waller** asked about the administration of the website

g) **C. Caneva** will research and get an idea of what the City of Evanston’s role could be.

h) **K. Glynn** asked if the site should only focus on the Climate Action Plan or if it should be extended to include other ideas, questions, or activities

i) **A. Viner** stated her view was to organize ideas around the Climate Action Plan

j) **Chair Finnegan** stated there are two different wants, one to provide and share the information on the activities of the City of Evanston, and then provide a Clearinghouse of ideas and activities.

k) **D. Cox** also raised the issue of USGBC grant, micro-grant focused on coalition building. Is there a means to subsidize this

l) **C. Caneva** will research if the City of Evanston can provide for the Eco-Exchange for the April meeting
b. Green Building 101 to Building Department
   a) A Viner presented the FAQ for the Green Building Ordinance it is included in the packet for the meeting.
   b) C. Caneva will research where the FAQ should be located and who would need to review it.
   c) The reference to LEED Developer should be removed
   d) How is the ESBMIR being distributed? C. Caneva will research where it is and how it is distributed
   e) Chair Finnegan will provide suggested changes to the FAQ
   f) A. Viner requested edits and changes to be sent to her.

VII. Strategic Plan tabled to April meeting
   a) Chair Besson sent a list where the Environment Board is called out in the Climate Action Plan.
   b. Summary of Progress to Date
   c. Environment Board’s Role vis-à-vis the ECAP
   d. Next Steps and Division of Responsibility
   e. Housekeeping (Packet Format, Information Transmission)
      a) Packet Format was appreciated by the board

D. Cox made a motion to adjourn seconded by A. Viner, at 9:03 p.m. motion passed unanimously.
NEXT MEETING – April 8, 2010