Thursday September 11, 2008

Board Members Present: David Dankert, William Gallagher, Susan Kaplan, Elizabeth Kinney, Leonard Sciarra, Gemariah Borough

Board Members Absent: Paige Knutsen, Susan Besson, Vicky McKinley, Eli A. Port, Richard M. Kuntz, Edward J. McCall

Community Members Present: Mr. Elliot Clark

Staff Present: Carl Caneva HHS, Carolyn Collopy Sustainability Coordinator, Karen Taira Ecology Center

Community Presentation

Dr. Elliott addressed the committee with regard to noise pollution. He presented research about the effects of commercial lawncare on the wellbeing of Evanston residents, his presentation is attached. Dr. Elliott has taken multiple measurements of noise levels produced by leaf blowers, lawn mowers, and idling of the diesel trucks as they wait for work crews to finish a job. The noise levels produced are between 90-104 decibels(dB) and are not regulated by any means. Lawn care devices are exempted in IL Administrative Code Section 900, which deals directly with noise levels. Employees of lawncare companies are subjected to the noise produced by equipment and have little or no personal protective equipment (PPE).

Action Requested
Dr. Elliot requested the Environment Board consider legislation that would regulate the amount of noise that was produced by commercial and residential lawn care devices. His solutions to the issue included retrofitting a muffler onto the devices or establishing a catalog of devices that had lower noise emissions and would be acceptable. Dr. Elliott stated that City of Evanston devices should not be exempted from complying with this ordinance.
**Board Response**

**Susan Kaplan** agreed, commercial lawn equipment emits air and noise pollution. The board may need to revisit the leaf blower ordinance and research its enforcement. Ms. Kaplan commented on Greenwise lawncare as an alternative to traditional commercial lawncare companies and equipment that relies on combustion.

**Leonard Sciarra**, stated that this topic had come up in the past and the board need to look into historical documents for research materials. Mr. Sciarra stated that a city department would have to issue and enforce this ordinance.

**Carolyn Collopy**, stated that Oak Park has a leaf blower ordinance mandating leaf blowers to have some level of EPA rating for them to be used. Oak Park utilizes a sticker to aid in enforcement.

**Elizabeth Kinney** asked if the lawncare companies are licensed

**Carl Caneva** answered yes they are licensed as a business

**Karen Taira** stated the City of Evanston’s ordinance specifies the times when leaf blowers can be used. Ms. Taira provided the board with flyers about the leaf blower ordinance ([http://www.cityofevanston.org/departments/parks/pdf/leaf_blower_regulations.pdf](http://www.cityofevanston.org/departments/parks/pdf/leaf_blower_regulations.pdf))

**Leonard Sciarra** stated their was no quorum so no vote could be made, but moving forward more research needs to be done

**Karen Tiara** will ask Linda Lutz about the history of the ordinance

**Susan Kaplan** will look at California State Law regarding lower emissions

**Environmental Awards**

The Board decided on the following to receive Environmental Awards at the Green Living Festival on October 4, 2008 at the Ecology Center at 10:00 a.m.:

- Dave Grummond
- Nichole Lovett of Harmony Haus
- Greenwise Lawncare
- MarkVend
- Lemoi Hardware
IPM and the City of Evanston

Carl Caneva updated the board on the City of Evanston continued cooperative effort with Safer Pest Control (SPC). Carl Caneva (Health and Human Services), Paul D’Agostino (Parks and Recreation), and Dave Cook (Facilities Management) met with Steve Pincuspy and Rachel Rosenberg of Safer Pest Control. Safer Pest Control has asked for amounts of pesticides used in the past to establish a baseline level. SPC will use these levels to measure future reductions. The next meeting will be within the next month, Susan Kaplan and Carolyn Collopy will be invited.

Green Building Ordinance

Leonard Sciarra, Elizabeth Kinney, Carl Caneva, and Carolyn Collopy will attend the Human Services Committee meeting on September 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mr. Sciarra will bring the costing report and will present a response to Walter Hallen’s memo. He will also introduce the idea of an escalating fine.

Announcement

Carolyn Collopy announced that the City of Evanston is now a Platinum member of Clean Air Counts. The city was also presented with an Environmental Stewardship Award from the Northwest Municipal Conference.

Ms. Collopy also stated the 2007 waste numbers have been reported. In 2007 our waste diversion rate was 37% and it is now at a rate of 42%.

The city has received funding for roll cart conversion. One route will be changed over next year. The basis for choosing the route will be the results of the Cans for Cash event.

Groot was awarded the Commercial Solid Waste Contract, they are providing commercial businesses with one 95 gallon recycling cart and recycling will be a lesser fee than waste.

Next Meeting
October 16, 2008 Ecology Center 7:30p.m.