

## Evanston Environment Board

## Quorum Present

Thursday April 2, 2009

**Board Members Present:** William Gallagher, Susan Kaplan, Gemariah Borough, Anne Viner, Richard M. Kuntz, Eli A. Port, Susan Besson, Elizabeth Kinney, Suzanne T. Waller, Kevin Glynn

**Board Members Absent:** Dan Cox, Paige Finnegan, Edward J. McCall

**Community Members Present:** Carl Bova, Len Sciarra

**Staff Present:** Carl Caneva HHS, Carolyn Collopy Sustainability Coordinator, Karen Taira Ecology Center, Bob Dornecker Parks and Recreation

Motion to call meeting to order by Anne Viner, seconded by Richard M. Kuntz at 7:02 pm

### **I Approval of minutes for February and March 2009**

- Motion to approve February and March minutes by **A. Viner** seconded by **G. Burrough**, minutes approved unanimously.
- **Chair Besson** opened the floor to discussion of meetings new location and time. A. Viner and others agreed time and venue change were positive.
- Next Meeting Discussion: **Chair Besson** requested all members review Evanston Climate Action Plan for the next meeting to consider strategic planning.

### **II. GBO update and Developer Discussion**

- **L. Sciarra** and **E. Kinney** reviewed the history of the Green Building Ordinance, explaining the need to find a penalty for noncompliance. The board has drafted an ordinance to reflect a tax, on the front end of the project. If buildings did not meet LEED standards the money would be transferred into the Evanston Climate Action Fund, housed at the Evanston Community Foundation.
- **Chair Besson** stated the money would simply rest in the Climate Action Fund.
- **L. Sciarra** stated that the City of Evanston would hold the funds until the final decision on LEED.

- **C. Collopy** stated there were still questions regarding management of the funds, and if the council would approve
- **B. Dornecker** recommended bringing the matter to Human Services, volunteered to assist **E. Kinney** on the development

### III. IPM Discussion Steve Pincuspy Safer Pest Control

- **S. Pincuspy** and **Kim Stone** of the Safer Pest Control Project spoke to the group.
  - Municipal Pesticide Reduction Project: assist Municipalities manage pests while reducing pesticides. Safer Pest Control has provided model contract text.
  - **S. Besson** asked what IPM efforts were currently underway at the City of Evanston
  - **S. Kaplan** stated her understanding was there was not a written policy, practices were in place.
  - **S. Pincuspy** Parks and Facilities Management, the policies will give legitimacy to IPM efforts in public.
  - **K. Stone** stated SPCP is funded federally and the consulting is covered by a grant and free to the City of Evanston while the grant is in effect. The current grant has expired, though is fully expected to be re-funded.
  - **S. Pincuspy** stated a consultant would be coming to Stockam Park to evaluate the program and propose a management plan.
  - **K. Stone** presented an IPM plan policy for Highland Park Schools
  - **K. Stone** stated IPM means building pests out and using the least toxic products to prevent pests. She stated the issue becomes subcontracting and those contracts that are in place create barriers.
  - **S. Pincuspy** requested to provide presentations to residents or staff in order to disseminate IPM. He presented "A Natural Park is a Healthy Park" brochure to members. This is developed in response to complaints about dandelions in the City's parks. **K. Stone** indicated the brochure also provides educational information for homeowners.
  - **A. Viner** asked the process for most municipalities
  - **W. Gallagher** stated there may be a want to legislate what condominiums do.
  - **S. Pincuspy** indicated the City of Evanston could not have an ordinance controlling pest control efforts.
  - **K. Stone** stated an ordinance could be passed regarding the usage of pesticides on public land.
  - **R. Kuntz** there have been problems with spraying for mosquitoes
  - **E. Port** questioned as to what commercial industry was doing with regards to pesticide application.
  - **S. Pincuspy** stated three words of warning are used in pest control products: caution, warning, and danger. Commercial industry is publicly making statements about IPM, and some are not following through. He indicated Bed Bugs are coming back and are being

brought back. The bugs do not transmit disease though they do cause quality of life issues. They are difficult to remove and remediate. Bed Bugs are resilient to most pesticides, and smaller firms are finding themselves to be ineffective. Steam cleaning is the best solution to the problem.

- **S. Pincuspy** indicated there are two means of addressing this; one being each department develops their own policies, or the municipality enacts an ordinance. The ordinance would be long lasting and would help to answer questions received by City of Evanston. He recommended the Environment Board initiate work on an ordinance with a statement of intent and require a plan from departments for IPM.
- **K. Stone** stated the State of Illinois requires notification and IPM in childcare agencies and schools. She stated she was working with Highland Park in this process, and is working with the City, Park District, and Libraries.
- **K. Glynn** suggested taking the requirements for child care and schools and applying it to the City of Evanston.
- **S. Pincuspy** stated there is only a notification requirement for lawn care applications
- **S. Besson** called a vote for the development of an IPM ordinance the vote passed unanimously
- The board thanked Safer Pest Control for their presentation.

#### **IV. Noise Ordinance**

- **E. Port** researched a performance based ordinance, seeking to look at noise and compare it to other standards. His research has yielded many performance based ordinances indicating noise exemptions, and targets of ordinances. He stated the City of Evanston does a credible job of responding to noise complaints subjectively speaking
- **C. Caneva** stated the public safety ordinance addressed noise ordinance. He also generally summarized the Administrative Adjudication process
- **A. Viner** requested the noise ordinance be given to all members for review.
- **C. Caneva** will research the number of calls regarding noise, the response, the enforcement, and geographic component, and specifically regarding construction noise
- **E. Port** stated there are ordinances requiring the measurement of noise using a sound meter. He questioned if a new ordinance is needed and how the ordinance would be enforced?
- **R. Kuntz** asked how a noise instrument would be an improvement.
- **L. Sciarra** stated the subjectivity would be removed.
- **R. Kuntz** noted that an instrument would involve additional costs, and require training.
- **C. Caneva** will send a copy of Elliot Clark's presentation to the members

- **A. Viner** stated it was difficult to assess whether there is a problem that requires Environment Board intervention without more information showing complaints, citations, and enforcement history.

#### **V. Roundtable Discussion**

- **S. Besson** reviewed the historical presentation from the March meeting. She requested the presentations be made to the group. She requested members research the Climate Action Plan.
- **Strategic Planning ideas:** IPM, plastic bags, coordinating environmental activities, supporting the Climate Action Plan, local farms,
- **A. Viner** indicated she is working with the “Talking Farm” group to develop opportunities at Willard School. She is interested in education on organics, IPM.
- **S. Besson** stated backyard gardeners would be welcomed at the West End Farmer’s Market. They are getting a great response from gardeners in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> wards
- **E. Kinney** requested that storm water management be readdressed. **C. Caneva** will attempt to get the presentation from Linda Lutz
- **L. Sciarra** reminded the board of the annual Environmental Stewardship Awards. The awards are typically presented either around Earth Day (April) or, as in 2008, at October Green Fest. Given the late date, it was noted that 2009 awards would be presented at October Green Fest.
- **K. Glynn** asked for information on what actions could take to assist the team working on the wind farm.
- **S. Besson** stated the wind farm recommendation is part of many initiatives presented to council as part of the Climate Action Plan, and that the Environment Board should review those ECAP recommendations that involve policy implementation.
- **S. Besson** recommended that Nate Kipnis be invited to a coming EEB meeting to offer a wind farm update.
- **A. Viner** suggested inviting other Environmental Groups to the meetings as speakers.
- **S. Besson** suggested contacting Dick Peach to speak on the plastic bag ordinance.

**W. Gallagher motioned to adjourn, A. Viner seconded, all approved meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.**