

## **Evanston Environment Board**

## **Quorum Present**

Thursday January 8, 2009

**Board Members Present:** David Dankert, William Gallagher, Susan Kaplan, Elizabeth Kinney, Leonard Sciarra, Gemariah Borough, Anne Viner, Richard M. Kuntz, Eli A. Port, Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan, Edward J. McCall

**Board Members Absent:** Vicky McKinley, Gemariah Borough

**Community Members Present:** Ed Domingo

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

### **I Approval of minutes for December 11, 2008**

- **S. Beeson** motioned to approve the minutes, motion was seconded by W. Gallagher minutes were approved

### **II. Introduction of new member**

- **Anne Viner** was introduced to the Environment Board as its newest member her term will expire in 2013

### **III. Election of New Co-chairperson**

- **E. Kinney** nominated **S. Beeson** and **P. Finnegan** for the position of co-chair. **S. Beeson** and **P. Finnegan** accepted the positions of co-chairs by acclamation.

### **V. Green Building Ordinance**

- **Chair Sciarra** spoke to the preservation commission regarding the green building ordinance with regards to its relationship to the preservation ordinance.
- Language was added to the ordinance to address the issue of preservation

## VI. Old Business

### a. Noise Ordinance

1. **E. Port** reported on research for a possible noise ordinance for the City of Evanston. There were no Federal noise measures covering noise. In order to come up with a quality ordinance there must be distance and a sound level measured. Additionally, in his research Mr. Port found legal cases at the Supreme Court level that a noise ordinance could not be passed based on content. His research continued to area municipalities and was concerned about those items exempted (snow blowers, police and fire equipment, etc.) **E. Port** will summarize local ordinances for the members. He recommends that Evanston have its own noise ordinance set at 65 decibels, the distance from the item making noise is in question. **Chair Sciarra** questioned whether a 65 decibel requirement would make all leaf blowers illegal. **E. Port** questioned whether time of day could also be considered. **C. Caneva** read the language in Title 9 under General Offenses in the City of Evanston Municipal Code. **E. Port** will return to the group with a recommendation. Committee agreed to move forward with the ordinance, and further agreed to pursue this from a broad spectrum. **E. Kinney** raised a question regarding the exhaust regulations. **E. Port** suggested looking at time restrictions as well; he will also recommend measurement methods and devices. **E. Port** will research IEPA regulations to find out if they are applicable.

### b. Environmental Stewardship Awards

1. **K. Taira** mentioned that awards can be presented at the council meeting. **C. Caneva** will arrange a meeting date and time for the presentation of the awards. **E. Kinney** will compile awards information for print to the Roundtable and **Chair Sciarra** will present the awards.

## VII. New Business

- **C. Caneva** will communicate with the Mayor's office as to any applications received for membership to the board
- **Chair Sciarra** asked what the next steps for the Environment Board will be, members were asked to send ideas and a bio to **C. Caneva** at ([ccaneva@cityofevanston.org](mailto:ccaneva@cityofevanston.org)) by February's meeting.
- **E Domingo** requested to speak about water fluoridation, specifically the fluoridizing of water causing pitting of teeth, thyroid glands accumulating fluoride, as well as other types of negative health impacts. Mr. Domingo confirmed that City of Evanston is subject to fluoridation. **E. Port** indicated the City of Evanston is within the desirable range and stated the Western States have larger issues. **E. Domingo** was concerned with overexposure to fluoride. **E Port** indicated that fluoride can be avoided by choosing the

correct toothpaste. Mr. Domingo was encouraged to research the issue and come back to the group in February.

- **E Kinney** attended the multi-modal transportation meeting and reported the group will send findings to the city. The main focus was the transportation centers of the city. The group is looking at raising street parking rates and lowering the sheltered or garage parking. The endpoint will be a 20 year multi-modal plan. **C. Collopy** stated the plan was in concert with the Climate Action Plan.

**D. Dankert motioned to adjourn, R. Kuntz seconded, meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.**