

Evanston Environment Board
7:00 p.m. Room 2200
Lorraine H. Morton Center
2100 Ridge Ave.

Quorum Present

Thursday July 9, 2009

Board Chairs: Susan Besson, Paige Finnegan

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

Board Members Absent: Richard M. Kuntz, Edward J. McCall

Community Members Present: Ron Fleckman, Alex Sproul, Eliot Zashin

Staff Present: Marty Lyons Assistant City Manager, Carl Caneva Health and Human Services, Carolyn Collopy Public Works

I. News/Updates

- Approval of June Minutes
- S. Besson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She welcomed Marty Lyons, Assistant City of Evanston Assistant City Manager to the group. He stated there has been a committee formed at the request of the city council to address questions about the Green Building Ordinance. The committee consisted of developers, staff and board members will serve. There is a plan to have two meetings by the end of the month, submit any changes for the August 10, 2009 meeting. Staff members are Carolyn Collopy, Martin Lyons, and Dennis Marino. The developers are Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jonathan Perman and John Keshak. The Board will be represented by: Paige Finnegan, Elizabeth Kinney, and former member Leonard Sciarra. Letters are invitations to join the task force and finalize the ordinance for August 10, 2009 council meeting.
- E. Kinney asked Mr. Lyons where the City of Evanston puts its money. He stated The City of Evanston puts money into a state fund which is a conglomeration of many municipalities; the money is split among various entities. The City of Evanston attempts to stay below the \$250,000 FDIC limit.
- E. Port asked whether money was placed into the Treasury Department approved bonds. Mr. Lyons answered no, they adhere to Illinois investment act.
- E. Kinney asked where the deposit should be stored, and what happens to the deposit while waiting for compliance. Mr. Lyons stated they would be stored in the General Fund on reserve status. In all other deposit situations the City of Evanston does not collect interest. Mr. Lyons stated if dollars are held the money could be invested the City of Evanston would be happy to give them interest without compromising the safety of the investment.
- The board thanked Mr. Lyons for his time.

II. Strategic Planning Retreat – SPECIAL MEETING

i. Dates: July 30th or August 20th

- S. Besson stated the board could utilize the August recess for strategic planning. S. Besson requested board feedback, S. Kaplan thought agreed it was a good idea. E. Port asked if the board to hold a retreat and if such a retreat would violate the Open Meetings Act. A. Viner stated the act a posting the meeting at least 48 hours in advance. A. Viner and E. Kinney cannot attend proposed dates. S. Besson requested members find a time for the retreat. P. Finnegan stated she cannot attend the August 13, 2009. A. Viner suggested the 27th of August. S. Besson voted for August 27th, 2009 all agreed.

Location: Wild Tree Café for Potluck Dinner

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Other News/Updates

- A. Viner provided a North Shore Channel Update: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has been performing a use and attainability analysis for the Chicago watershed. They have been surveying the waters for habitability. Our portion of the watershed is called the North Shore Channel. There were only 3 areas that got direct contact (swimming, waterskiing) allowance NSC was one of them. The channel is a storm water and sanitary discharge in heavy rain events (12-15 year)
- The study focuses on attainability as well, the pollution control board will require the effluent from the MWRD to be disinfected
- The standard for the effluent will be based on usage
- S. Besson asked about the timing of the announcement of a downgrade and what the context would be? A. Viner stated there have been three public meetings, the entire process has gone on for 5 years. This investigation has focused on aquatic life and bacteria.
- Announcement of the finding is at least 2 months out
- Final 30 day comment period passed a few months ago.
- IEPA has information on its website regarding watershed quality.
- S. Besson asked if the board should be concerned about the disinfectant process. A. Viner stated IEPA gave an answer indicating the treatment process will not be harmful
- A. Viner stated this is part of the Evanston Climate Action Plan
- W. Gallagher this problem needs a long term study

III. City of Evanston Governmental Structure, Carl Caneva

- C. Caneva staff to the Environment Board gave a presentation (attached) on the structure of the City of Evanston's Government.
- Questions were raised about the next steps for the Green Building Ordinance. C. Caneva will find out what the next steps are for the Ordinance after the committee finishes its work.

IV. GBO Update and Next Steps

- Updated Ordinance – Substantive Changes
- P. Finnegan stated the Green Building Ordinance (GBO) was presented to Council on Consent agenda it was approved and moved for action. All Alderman stated they wanted to see the GBO pass but all had concerns. On June 22nd the Board was told a new committee would be formed. A nine person committee was formed to address and amend the ordinance.
- Board members have attempted to respond to the letters of opposition from the Chamber of Commerce. The opposition has been mostly about the deposit. The new ordinance from E. Kinney is updated in response to the comments.
- E. Kinney indicated there will be Community Forum, Monday, July 20th at the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center 7:00 p.m. to address questions

- E. Kinney stated the definitions have changed to include commercial
- A. Viner questioned if the ordinance meant that if the remodeling is more than 10,000 sqft. Then it needs to meet the requirements. E. Kinney stated that yes it is only if the remodeling project is greater than 10,000 sqft., not the building.
- A. Viner suggested an alternative deposit program similar to the EPA's underground storage tank program. If benchmarks could be set then a percentage of the money could be returned.
- S. Besson agreed the ordinance should not be open for interpretation by a city official
- E. Port asked how far into the project must a checklist be submitted. D. Cox stated there was no requirement for a LEED accredited professional. E. Port asked for the accredited professional to be required. D. Cox stated the majority of the credits were in the design phase.
- Resident Ron Fleckman asked why it would be difficult for the developers to put design information into their document.
- P. Finnegan asked the board to come to a consensus on several issues prior to meeting the 9 member board meeting
- Alex Sproul asked why the standards for LEED Certification had to have penalties and deposits had to be involved. He likened the process to American with Disabilities Act. Mr. Sproul asked why the City inspectors can't add green protocols to their current inspections. P. Finnegan stated one of the issues is the system is flexible, the second is the flexibility putting on stress on the building department
- Resident Eliot Sashen, stated withholding the Certificate of Occupancy is a poor way to enforce this standard
- Resident R. Fleckman stated the current manner in which the building are built, further stated the deposit is a non starter
- S. Beeson stated the deposit was born of the committee due to the question of enforcement. S. Besson stated there may exist a public relations problem around the deposit
- The board agreed the square footage should not be changed
- A. Viner stated the board should not give up a deposit concept
- E. Kinney stated the other issues were incentives, the building community is interested in expedited permitting
- E. Port asked what happens to the deposit if the developer does not start, that issue needs further research

V. IPM Ordinance Development and Next Steps

- S. Kaplan asked for direction on a date for the Natural Lawn Care Workshop, Safer Pest Control was interested in a Thursday Meeting in September
- Sept 10, 17, 24th are possible dates, the board determined the 17th or the 24th
- Possible locations NorthShore University Health Center, Retirement Communities Three Crowns, Library, or School
- K. Glynn and A. Viner requested the meeting be held at the library, attendance would be near 30
- A. Viner suggested the district wellness committee
- G. Bouroughs requested the notice be aired on the local access cable channel
- New draft ordinance addresses the comments from the last meeting
- E. Port asked if it was necessary to legislate what has already been decided by management
- P. Finnegan stated that yes it needed to be codified in order to ensure its status
- E. Port stated the definition of pesticide is too broad, and he is not convinced the City of Evanston does not use pesticides, he cited the lagoon (algaecide) and rose garden (pesticides). E. Port questioned the language introduced by the draft ordinance

- S. Kaplan stated she will discuss this with Steve and disperse it to the members
- E. Port requested the EPA's definition be utilized in this ordinance
- E. Port Section 4D asked why the ordinance referenced California
- E. Port section 4C refers to a list that currently does not exist
- D. Cox and E. Kinney made comments about Natural Lawncare being separated into two distinct issues
- A. Viner asked for the Natural Lawn Care and Pesticides to be different sections of the same code
- E. Port asked the real goal of the ordinance
- S. Besson stated the goal was to promote health and well being through a limited usage of chemicals
- A. Viner asked what the City of Evanston uses under their current progress
- A. Viner stated the natural substances may have an impact on wildlife.
- S. Waller stated the Parks Department is to let the dandelions grow.
- A. Viner and E. Port wants to make sure the Board is not promoting unregulated products in excessive amounts
- S. Besson stated that what is being presented addresses what needs to be defined
- S. Kaplan stated they used small amounts of pesticides, the parks and forestry were using perimeter spraying
- The Parks staff has pilot projects to bolster the turfs hardiness
- E. Port asked S. Kaplan to review the pesticide definition a list of what is used and would fall under the definition

VI. Roundtable Discussion

- S. Waller asked about the plastic bag ordinance, P. Finnegan will look into an update from Dick Peach
- E. Port indicated his thanks for the members who worked on the GBO
- E. Port stated in addition to the GBO ordinance, develop methods to address community needs without ordinance changes
- W. Gallagher is looking for information to be received positively

NEXT MEETING- September 10, 2009

Page Finnegan motioned to adjourn at 9:20pm seconded by **E. Port**.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

Carl Caneva

City of Evanston Staff to the Environment Board