

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

Quorum Present

Thursday June 11, 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

Board Members Absent: Richard M. Kuntz, Susan Besson, Edward J. McCall, Gemariah Borough, Suzanne Waller

Community Members Present: Len Sciarra, Steve Pincuspy Safer Pest Control, Paul Adelson

Staff Present: Carl Caneva HHS, Carolyn Collopy Public Works, Paul D'Agostino Parks and Recreation

I. Approval of minutes for May 14, 2009

- The meeting was called to order by the chair at 7:03 pm
- There was a motion to approve the minutes from May 14, 2009. The minutes were approved unanimously

II. Biological Control of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) pilot project (Paul D'Agostino Parks and Recreation Department)

- The National Forest Service started a Bio-Control project to slow the spread of EAB, the project began in Michigan and continued into Ohio.
- Consists of releasing 3 different parasitic wasps that are host specific to the EAB, the wasps are native to China and help keep the EAB population under control
- City of Evanston, Chicago, and Village of Hazel Crest (all Illinois) have agreed to be involved in the pilot program
- **P. D'Agostino** stated the City of Evanston has lost nearly 2,000 trees due to the EAB, including 600 on public land
- **W. Gallagher** asked about the dangers of the insects
- **P. D'Agostino** indicated that laboratory tests are being run, the largest insect is 5mm, they are incapable of biting or stinging humans, the wasps are specific to boring insects. He further indicated a similar project began two years ago in Michigan and has shown no adverse effects to the human or insect population

- **P. D'Agostino** stated losing the ash trees may be worse than doing nothing. Ash trees make up roughly 12% of the population
- **P. D'Agostino** announced the program had been approved by the City Manager and is set to begin as soon as possible, he is looking for an endorsement of the project by the Environment Board
- The project is funded entirely by the NFS
- **P. D'Agostino** stated the NFS looks to areas already infested with the Ash Borer, the trees need to live for 3 to 4 years. They are proposing the project occur on the channel and the golf course
- **W. Gallagher** asked if the disposal of the tree was part of the funding. **P. D'Agostino** stated the program intent was to save trees, he did not believe the cost of disposal was included in the grant
- **P. D'Agostino** stated the EAB infestation started near the area of Lovelace Park and NU Football, now they are being found throughout the City of Evanston
- **A. Viner** stated that you can observe when the trees are infested, the bark of the tree is removed
- **P. D'Agostino** stated the easiest way to spot is in Feb. and Mar. woodpeckers eat the EAB larvae and the bark is removed
- Members asked questions about the status of an inoculation for the ash trees, **P. D'Agostino** stated there is no inoculation that has a lasting effect
- Members questioned how the wasps control the EAB. **P. D'Agostino** responded two of the wasps lay their eggs in the larvae of the tree, one of them lays the eggs on the EAB eggs. The wasps will be released at different times of the year due to the biology of the EAB. The first release is proposed by the end of June.
- **A. Viner** stated she is in favor of the removal of the EAB through biological control
- **E. Port** asked if there were any beneficial insects threatened by the wasps, **P. D'Agostino** stated no, all laboratory tests had shown that the wasps were EAB specific.
- **E. Port** asked if there were any predators to the wasp, **P. D'Agostino** stated he was not aware of any natural predators
- **E. Port** stated his endorsement of the program
- **E. Port** motioned to endorse the program, seconded by **A. Viner**, motioned passed 6 ayes 1 abstention (**W. Gallager**)
- The board thanked **P. D'Agostino** for his presentation.

III. **Green Building Ordinance (GBO) Update and Next Steps**

- **Chair P. Finnegan** requested **E. Kinnery** and **Len Sciarra** review the GBO status, it was introduced at council on Monday June 8, 2009
- **Chair P. Finnegan** requested the members attend the June 22, 2009 City Council Meeting to support the GBO
- **Chair P. Finnegan** stated the USGBC Chicago is drafting a letter endorsing the proposal, additionally Environment Illinois and the Natural

Resource Defense Council are also drafting letters of support for the ordinance

- **L. Sciarra** called for local support
- Members requested the involvement of The Citizens for a Greener Evanston and the Business Alliance for a Sustainable Evanston (BASE)
- **E. Kinney** is drafting a response to Jonathan Perman's (Chamber of Commerce) letter
- At the request of the Board **C. Caneva** will investigate when the ordinance will be finished in regards to the text changes, **E. Kinney** requested the Ord. be received by members next Monday or Tuesday.
- Motion to ensure that any monies deposited by the developer will earn interest. The motion passed unanimously
- **A. Viner** requested that someone city staff or other attend the next council meeting the issue of interest
- **K. Glynn** mentioned referencing any current money management ordinance in the municipal code
- **P. Finnegan** reviewed the letter from Jonathan Perman of the Chamber of Commerce, the letter was responded to by **Len Sciarra** at Monday's Council meeting and by **E. Kinney** in a forthcoming letter
- **E. Kinney** stated, there were questions with regard to renovation. The only application to renovation would be one over 10,000 sq. ft. There were also questions to fairness due to its proximity to the R.T.A. and metra. The East side of town has greater access to public transportation and the West side will not have the LEED points for mass transit.
- **Len Sciarra** stated there were other means to attain LEED points including stormwater, green roofs etc.
- **E. Kinney** stated there were also concerns with why commercial buildings are addressed and residential is not included
- **E. Kinney** questioned if the Board should address the letters received by Focus Development and the letter by nsbar.org.
- General Consensus among members was to establish one response and send that response out
- **D. Cox was** concerned as to whether some of the points associated with LEED Certification will lead to violations with the City of Evanston code, he cited the weed and grass height ordinance
- **C. Caneva** read the weeds and grass ordinance:

302.4 Weeds And Grass. All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of eight inches (8"). All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual, biennial and perennial plants and vegetation which are propagated by seed or vegetative parts, which are of little value and compete with cultivated plants or may affect the health of humans or animals, other than trees and shrubs. However, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens.

- **P. Finnegan** emailed the contacts of the current aldermen to board members. Members were given assignments of contacting aldermen about the GBO. Members were asked to direct questions to Len Sciarra, Elizabeth Kinney with any specific questions about the ordinance.

IV. IPM Ordinance Development and Next Steps

- **S. Kaplan** stated there were two topics to discuss: the training or workshop for Evanston Homeowners, the second is the ordinance
- **S. Kaplan** stated **S. Pincuspy (Safer Pest Control)** offered a talk on IPM, Bed Bugs, and Natural Lawn Care for Residents
- **K. Glynn** asked how success would be measured
- **S. Pincuspy** stated it was difficult to measure behavior change, they measure knowledge retention with surveys and follow-ups, self reported Behavior change
- **E. Port** wanted to educate as many as possible and if the landscapers would be addressed as well
- **E. Port** asked what the enforcement mechanism would be for the IPM Ordinance
- **S. Kaplan suggested** adding language regarding enforcement to the draft
- **S. Pincuspy** stated current City of Evanston projects do not have IPM constraints specifically written in
- **E. Port** stated the release of pesticides is a public health issue and would need to have an enforcement
- **S. Pincuspy** stated he modeled the ordinance on other cities and partners, the intent for the City of Evanston to become more sustainable.
- **S. Pincuspy** gave a brief overview of the IPM Ordinance
- **S. Pincuspy** stated the signage requirement was impractical for WNV spraying
- **E. Port** requested a definition of pesticides
- **A. Viner** requested a list and citation and list of California known chemicals
- **A. Viner** also requested clarification on the training of City of Evanston staff
- **P. Finnegan** requested that items in the ordinance be clarified and the board will revisit it the next meeting.
- **D. Cox** requested the issue of Lawn Care be expanded, or that it be separated out into it's own specific ordinance
- **P. Finnegan** stated the goal was for the City of Evanston to be a model for the residents
- **E. Port** stated policy and education would go further than an ordinance banning use
- **E. Kinnery** requested the Natural Lawn Care be added to the educational point
- **A. Viner** requested a statement of purpose needs to be found in the whereas sections, along with outreach and environment board

- **P. Adelson** stated the ordinance may impact janitorial supplies and was interested in contractor education
- **A. Viner** suggested language indicating the code be attached to any contract
- **S. Pincuspy** offered his services to provide education
- **S. Kaplan** suggested a weekday training in the summer, possibly in September
- **A. Viner** suggested presentations at the **Farmers Markets** and having the information presented at more than one location, **E. Kinney** suggested the Green Living Festival

V. Climate Action Plan/Strategic Plan Presentation and Discussion

- Discussion tabled until July meeting requested to be on the agenda item
- North Shore Channel Discussion suggested for July meeting

VI. Roundtable Discussion

- Because of time constraints no roundtable discussion was held.

E. Port motioned to adjourn at 9:20pm seconded by **A. Viner**.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

Carl Caneva

City of Evanston Staff to the Environment Board

NEXT MEETING- July 9, 2009