



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Environmental Board

Thursday, April 12, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2404

Members Present: Cherie Leblanc-Fisher, Jerri Garl, Wendy Pollock, Noreen Edwards, Sarah Liddell, Linda Young, Michael Kormanik, Scott Osborne, Christopher Kucharczyk

Members Absent: Tom Klitzkie

Staff Present: Kumar Jensen, Leslie Perez, Lara Biggs

Guests: No Guests

Presiding Member: Scott Osborne

1. Declaration of Quorum

S. Osborne called meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and a quorum was established.

2. Public Hearing: Stormwater Management Plan

A. Staff Presentation of Stormwater Management Plan

L. Biggs discussed Evanston's storm sewer system, the MS4 Permit Process and the City's Stormwater Management Plan.

B. Public Comment and Feedback Discussion of Proposed Plan

Board members reiterated recommendations made at its March 8th meeting that the City should: consider green infrastructure (GI) measures for all City-led capital projects (6.6a); develop a comprehensive stormwater management plan to maximize GI solutions and reduce reliance on grey infrastructure, taking a watershed approach, in order to address our current flooding and sewer overflow events and prepare for more frequent and severe stormwater events anticipated due to climate change (6.6b). W. Pollock urged that natural systems be recognized as crucial to stormwater management planning.

Appendix I: Stormwater Management Plan – EEB Questions and Recommendations

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March

M. Kormanik motioned to accept, C. Leblanc-Fisher seconded, all approved

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of West End Pumping Station

W. Pollock expressed concerns with way information was disseminated by the City regarding the West End Pumping Station project. J. Garl motioned that the City of Evanston provide appropriate staff to conduct meetings with an opportunity for public comment for the West End Pumping Station Project including both existing and future plans, S. Liddell seconded, all approved.

B. City of Evanston Pesticide Use Report

M. Kormanik reports Paul D'Agostino presented the City of Evanston Pesticide Use Report to City Council. C. Kucharczyk motioned to invite P. D'Agostino to discuss the City of Evanston Pesticide Use Report with the Environment Board, C. Leblanc-Fisher seconded, all approved.

6. Unfinished Business

1. Discussion of EEB Role in Reviewing/Evaluating Environmental Impact of City Budget, Investments and Operational Activities

S. Liddell presented a draft resolution for City divestment of public funds from fossil fuel. S. Osborne reminded the Board the City Manager has deemed this subject as not in their purview. Mr. Osborne recommended a draft memo be first sent to the City Manager for clarification on the Board's role in City investments before drafting a resolution.

2. Engage/Invite MWRD to Future EEB Meetings

S. Osborne recommended revisiting this topic in May.

7. Adjournment

C. Kucharczyk moved to adjourn the meeting, M. Kormanik seconded. S. Osborne adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, May 10, 2018

Appendix I:

Stormwater Management Plan EEB Questions and Recommendations

March 8 and April 12, 2018

Recommendations to staff moved and unanimously adopted at March 8 EEB meeting:

6.6a Consider green infrastructure (GI) measures for all city-led capital projects

6.6b Develop a comprehensive stormwater management plan to maximize GI solutions and reduce reliance on grey infrastructure, taking a watershed approach, in order to address our current flooding and sewer overflow events and prepare for more frequent and severe stormwater events anticipated due to climate change.

Linda Young to provide examples of comprehensive stormwater management plans.

Other aggregated comments and recommendations from EEB members:

This seems to be primarily about *discharges*. The Board members want to see the city create a plan for reducing the amount of *water* going into sewers— that's more aspirational, with . . .

1. commitment to green infrastructure (GI) practices for *all* capital projects— specifically for parkways and streets—and city buildings (e.g., do any still have downspouts connected to sewers?)
2. watershed approach to stormwater management with the rest of the drainage basin and Cook County.
3. specific goal related to how the City is increasing its stormwater retention capacity to prepare for increases in frequency and severity of rainfall events, due to the effects of climate change. These storm events may also need to be reflected in construction site and post construction BMPs.

Other suggestions and comments:

1. Include areas smaller than an acre (Goal 5.1.a).
2. Monitoring and tracking important. Provide "annual evaluation reports" both for City as a whole and by ward to make more relevant for residents and help highlight environmental justice issues that are geographically or demographically based. Board also requests annual update.
3. Give greater attention to pharmaceuticals.
4. Give greater attention to nutrients, including helping residents manage nutrient on private property.
5. Include more activities that aim to *limit* contamination.
6. Translate Complete and Green Streets policy (mentioned in Goals 5.3.a-c) into enforceable ordinance and concrete action.
7. Coordinate more closely with forestry and greenways groups, who maintain natural systems that are essential part of green infrastructure.
8. Increase public involvement/participation measures, including getting word out through wider variety of channels (e.g., all capital and GI projects presented at Ward meetings, outreach through existing groups like Citizens' Greener

Evanston and Evanston Environmental Association, flyers/door-to-door canvassing).

9. Continue exploring green alley options.
10. Provide educational displays for more GI projects
11. Share this plan with the CARP Adaptation Task Force for their input.
12. Include in plan a map of each sewer system and information about number of CSO events.

Resources

Complete and Green Network Policy
adopted 6/5/2017

<https://www.cityofevanston.org/home/showdocument?id=25057>

TreesAndStormwater.org

Developed by the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), the USDA Forest Service and other national partners to help overcome the widespread lack of understanding, acceptance, and credibility of using trees for green infrastructure to manage stormwater.

EPA green infrastructure resources including:

<https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain>

Municipal Online Stormwater Training Center

<https://mostcenter.org/>