



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Environmental Board

Thursday, August 9, 2018

7:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Cherie Leblanc-Fisher, Jerri Garl, Wendy Pollock, Linda Young, Tom Klitzkie, Scott Osborne

Members Absent: Noreen Edwards, Michael Kormanik, Christopher Kucharczyk, Sarah Liddell

Staff Present: Kumar Jensen, Leslie Perez

Guests: Jessica Lehman

Presiding Member: Wendy Pollock

1. Declaration of Quorum

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June

S. Osborne motioned to accept amended minutes, C. Leblanc-Fisher seconded, all approved

3. Public Comment

No comments

4. Staff Updates/Questions

A. Announcements and Updates

a. New Report Format

K. Jensen announced a new trial reports format for communication with the Board as an alternative to using a memo format.

b. Greenest Region Compact II

The Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus has developed a Greenest Region Compact II (GRC2). The compact is a two page list of climate actions. The City of Evanston has signed the compact and the resolution was approved at the Human Service Committee and will go to full City Council for approval.

c. AmeriCorps Position

AmeriCorps through Serve Illinois has grant funded sustainability positions which the City has submitted an application for one position. The application was approved by AmeriCorps and has been posted to the sustainability

website. The position will be hired by October 2018 and will end by July 2019.

d. City of Boston Renewable Energy RFI

The City of Boston has issued a Renewable Energy RFI. The City of Boston is looking for municipalities with enough electrical load as to entice utility companies to invest in green energy in places in the country that currently rely on “dirty” energy such as electricity produced by the use of coal. The RFI requires no commitment.

e. Environmental Study RFP

Funding set aside for soil and air testing and monitoring around the waste transfer station on Church. The RFP will cover hiring an engineer to design and implement the environmental study. There are also a couple of different options on how the test and monitoring equipment will be obtained by the City.

f. Benchmarking Program

The benchmarking grant proposal from the Urban Sustainability Director’s Network will work to share data agreements between municipalities and utility companies in order to connect funding or rebate programs to target the building owners who are currently participating in benchmarking programs.

B. City-wide Composting Program Update

K. Jensen reports on the two composting programs offered by the City. There’s a standalone program (Collective Resource) and a food scraping program offered in conjunction with yard waste. The standalone program has seen a marginal increase in both new customers and hires. The City’s yard waste program has not seen a discernible increase in new customers.

C. CARP Timeline

K. Jensen reports the CARP timeline on the public meeting for the draft plan has changed. The CARP public meeting (September 13, 2018) falls on the same date as the City’s Budget public outreach meeting. S. Osborne is concerned about having public comments at the same time the Board may have comments and questions. He feels the Board wouldn’t be able to give its full attention to the public comment portion of the meeting without commenting on the CARP plan themselves. The Board decided to move the regular EEB meeting to 6:00 PM September 13, 2018 and hold the CARP public comment meeting at 7:00 PM.

D. Certified Wildlife Habitat of City Properties

K. Jensen expressed to the Board that this is not the City’s program. The program is spearheaded by Natural Habitat for Evanston which is a project of Citizens for Greener Evanston. The program is administered through the Natural Wildlife Federation. The goal of the program is to certify the entire community. The website has general information, applications for certifying individual properties, outreach materials, plant lists, brochures and data on how close the City is to certification. K.

Jensen stated the City has currently 209 out of 300 properties certified. Mr. Jensen explained the certification process.

E. September Meeting (falls on same day as Budget Outreach Event)

K. Jensen explained the Budget Outreach Event and the potential conflict with the EEB meeting and CARP's public comments meeting. The Board does not see a conflict and will hold its EEB meeting as schedule above on section c.

5. Board Comments and Concerns

S. Osbourne would like the Board to latch on to something and work together more as a group.

L. Young was concerned the light study didn't address ROI from the savings on electricity. She would like the City to publish some form of data showing this ROI. S. Osbourne reminded the group the study was focused on what type of lighting is appropriate for the City. He sees a major problem with the survey as it doesn't address the replacement of Tallmadge poles and fixtures.

C. Leblanc-Fisher expressed concern with the current state of recycling. K. Jensen assured the Board the City that although all recyclers are hurting that they are still taking our recyclables. He does see a concern in the near future as recycling buyers demand higher quality recyclables that local recycler will become more stringent on what materials they will take and contaminant percentage of the materials. K. Jensen also reported the waste characterization studies are complete and he will present finding in future meetings.

C. Leblanc-Fisher reports District 65 has eliminated the use of Styrofoam trays and will pilot a new product this year. The District is also piloting composting at five schools.

6. Adjournment

J. Garl moved to adjourn the meeting, C. Leblanc-Fisher seconded. W. Pollock adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, September 13, 2018