



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Environmental Board

Thursday, January 10, 2019

6:30 p.m.

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

Members Present: Cherie Leblanc-Fisher, Sarah Liddell, Wendy Pollock, Linda Young, Tom Klitzkie, Christopher Kucharczyk, Jerri Garl

Members Absent: Noreen Edwards, Michael Kormanik, Scott Osborne

Staff Present: Kumar Jensen, Alyson Wright

Guests: Jack Lido (Northwestern Journalism Student)

Presiding Member: Wendy Pollock

1. Declaration of Quorum

W. Pollock called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and a quorum was established.

2. Public Comment

No comments.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December

L. Young motioned to accept amended minutes, C. Leblanc-Fisher seconded, all approved.

4. 2019 Goal: Advance Implementation of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)

The board agreed to focus on these CARP priorities over the coming year:

A. Zero Waste – Introduction of Material Use Hierarchy (K. Jensen)

K. Jensen distributed to board members a Material Use Hierarchy and explained its purpose to guide policies and the implementation of the Zero Waste section of CARP. Board members discussed the Material Use Hierarchy and discussed what “zero” means in term of waste.

S. Liddell volunteered to do more research on Zero Waste.

B. Urban Canopy and Green Space

See below.

C. Green Infrastructure

K. Jensen informed the board that Staff is currently working on the Complete and Green Streets report and it will fall under CARP implementation moving forward.

L. Young volunteered to continue tracking progress on the board's March 2018 recommendation that the COE: "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."

D. Resilience Regulations

K. Jensen clarified that the Focus Area – Resilience Regulations will not be a priority for the strategy being brought to Human Services in March since there is not a vulnerability assessment to guide regulations. J. Garl wants each City department to look at existing policies and regulations surrounding resilience regulations like building codes.

J. Garl and T. Klitzkie volunteered to research Evanston plumbing codes.

5. Old Business

A. Review Environment Board Bylaws

L. Young briefed the board on her investigation of similar boards in other cities. She suggested several options that might be considered in response to calls for consolidation of BCCs, including moving to quarterly meetings.

L. Young proposes each member provides reasons at the next meeting for why the Board should continue as is or why the Board should change their structure.

6. Status of Recent EEB Actions

A. CARP Implementation Recommendations (December 2018 – City Manager, The Mayor and City Council)

W. Pollock reported that she sent the board's recommendations immediately following last meeting and received an acknowledgment from the City Manager.

B. Natural Areas Resolution (October 2018)

W. Pollock reported that she had sent the Mayor the board's October 2018 resolution regarding designation, protection, and maintenance of Natural Areas; that staff are following up; and that the Stewardship Network already has met. The hope is that the Mayor will issue a proclamation on Earth Day.

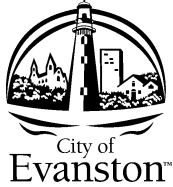
C. Stewardship Network (October 2018)

P. D'Agostino and the Stewardship Network have met. The board hopes to move the Mayor to make a proclamation for Earth Day.

7. Adjournment

J. Garl moved to adjourn the meeting, C. Kucharczyk seconded. W. Pollock adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, February 14, 2019



Memorandum

To: Wendy Pollock, Environment Board Co-Chair; Scott Osborne, Environment Board Co-Chair; Members of the Environment Board

From: Kumar Jensen, Sustainability Coordinator

Subject: CARP Implementation Strategy 2019 - 2020

Date: February 14, 2019

Primary Focus Areas

Municipal Operations
Building Efficiency
Renewable Energy
Zero Waste
Transportation and Mobility
Green Infrastructure (stormwater)

Summary:

In December 2018, the Evanston City Council unanimously approved Resolution 105-R-18 Adoption of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP). At that meeting Alderman requested that City staff develop an implementation strategy and bring that strategy for discussion at the March Human Services Committee meeting, scheduled for March 4, 2019.

Since December, 2018 staff have met frequently to determine which Focus Areas to prioritize and what actions to move forward with. The attached implementation strategy focuses exclusively on actions to take in 2019 and 2020. Staff recommend that the six aforementioned Focus Areas be prioritized. A few of the remaining Focus Areas such as Vulnerable Populations, Urban Canopy and Outreach, Education and Behavior Change, will certainly impact the work done in 2019 and 2020 even if the entire Focus Areas are not included.

All actions within the plan will be implemented according to the three Guiding Principles: Equity-Centered, Outcome Focused and Cost-Effective and Affordable. Many of plan's actions are already underway; however, many still need resources and attention to demonstrate impact.

Staff request review and discussion of the strategy, not formal action is recommended.

Category	Dept.	Status	Action	Start Date
Building Efficiency	CD		Adopt a retro-commissioning requirement for large buildings	2020
Building Efficiency	CD		Institute a residential energy performance transparency program	2020
Building Efficiency	CD		Require Net-zero Emissions building codes for all buildings by 2030	2019
Building Efficiency	CD/CMO	Initiated	Evaluate barriers for low/moderate income housing properties and affordable housing units in achieving Net-zero Emissions standards	2019
Building Efficiency	CMO	Ongoing	Continue implementation of the Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance	2019
Building Efficiency	PWA	Ongoing	Facilitate reduction in water use by top 20 water consumers	2019
Municipal Operations	AS		Conduct a municipal infrastructure vulnerability assessment	2020
Municipal Operations	AS		Develop a facility energy management strategy & zero emissions vehicle purchasing strategy	2019
Municipal Operations	AS	Ongoing	Provide composting at all municipal facilities	2019
Municipal Operations	CMO	Scheduled	Complete a municipal operations greenhouse gas emissions inventory	2019
Municipal Operations	CMO		Develop deconstruction and reuse requirements for municipal facilities	2020
Municipal Operations	CMO	Scheduled	Evaluate options for renewable energy purchase for municipal operations	2020
Municipal Operations	CP	Ongoing	Achieve & maintain the Natural Wildlife Certification and Maintain Monarch Pledge	2019
Municipal Operations	CP	Initiated	Develop definition of natural and open spaces	2019
Municipal Operations	PWA	Scheduled	Issue an RFP for solar on feasible municipal facilities	2019
Renewable Energy	CMO	Initiated	Incentivize businesses to purchase renewable energy (sustainable business recognition)	2019
Renewable Energy	CMO		Provide information and resources on the installation of onsite renewable energy systems	2020
Renewable Energy	PWA	Scheduled	Explore expanding reach of electricity aggregation and tighten sourcing requirements	2019
Stormwater	CP	Initiated	Deploy education materials to alert property owners to delay activities that contribute wastewater to sewer system during storms	2019
Stormwater	PWA		Determine what areas and infrastructure are most vulnerable to flooding	2020
Stormwater	PWA		Develop a stormwater utility to provide funds to incentivize improved stormwater management for property owners	2020
Stormwater	PWA	Scheduled	Install Green Alleys where feasible	2020
Stormwater	PWA		Prepare a comprehensive stormwater plan	2019
Stormwater	PWA		Target specific types of infrastructure to implement green infrastructure (parking lots, alleys, parks, vacant lots, etc.)	2020
Category	Dept.	Status	Action	Start Date
Transportation and Mobility	CD		Complete a sidewalk gap analysis	2020
Transportation and Mobility	CD		Develop and electric vehicle policy roadmap	2019

Transportation and Mobility	CD	Ongoing	Expand Divvy for everyone	2019
Transportation and Mobility	CD	Scheduled	Implement bus shelter installations with PACE	2020
Transportation and Mobility	CD		Launch a preliminary study of transportation mode shift evaluation (student research)	2019
Transportation and Mobility	CD	Scheduled	Optimize Divvy station locations	2019
Transportation and Mobility	CD/CMO	Ongoing	Revise reporting for complete and greens streets and evaluate policy	2019
Transportation and Mobility	CMO	Scheduled	Regularly report on electric vehicle charging infrastructure performance	2019
Zero Waste	CD	Initiated	Provide education about the Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinance to contractors and the option of deconstruction to residents	2019
Zero Waste	CMO		Begin phasing out the use of single-use, petroleum-based products like plastic shopping bags, straws, and take-out containers through education and policy	2019
Zero Waste	CMO		Create and implement a zero waste strategy	2019
Zero Waste	PWA	Scheduled	Pursue a performance based contract to increase waste reduction and diversion in the commercial franchise agreement in 2020	2019
	AS/PWA/CMO		Hire a Utility Operations Analyst	2020
	CMO	Ongoing	Launch a sustainable business recognition program to engage with businesses and increase diversion rates	2019

Key

- Scheduled Actions that are scheduled
- Ongoing Actions that do not have an end date and have begun
- Initiated Actions that have begun
- CMO City Manager's Office
- PWA Public Works Agency
- AS Administrative Services
- CD Community Development
- CP Community Partner

The Case for a 2019 Climate Action Omnibus Ordinance

January 27, 2019. Leslie Shad, Lead, Natural Habitat Evanston

By 2050, Evanston will be a climate-ready and resilient City that has successfully prioritized the needs of its most vulnerable while combating climate change. To realize this vision, the City of Evanston (City) is committed to taking immediate and decisive action to reduce the community's impact on climate change and to prepare the community to adapt and become more resilient to the changing climate and its effects.

---Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)
Adopted December 10, 2018

Proposal. As part of the implementation strategy to be finalized in March 2019, develop (or plan) an omnibus ordinance.

1. Review the CARP plan for steps requiring regulatory change. See Attachment A initial listing of regulatory commitments.
2. Conduct a review of relevant City regulations, policies and practices and determine how climate resilience strategies can be incorporated.
3. Determine what pieces can be grouped into the same ordinances (e.g., degree to which building code updates could incorporate urban canopy and stormwater ordinance changes, such as for natural areas, native plants and birds).
 - Ordinances requiring research and planning could go in separate, future ordinances. Still should require a timetable and name a responsible party.
 - Resolutions should follow the same procedure as the Omnibus Ordinance.
 - What pieces require new or revised City Policies (short of an Ordinance), and what committee will own any corresponding action/s.
4. Subject policies to review or guidance by CARP and City Sustainability to maximize transparency and efficiency. Tracking dozens of separate, new policy changes makes it difficult for the City and the public to know the status, provisions and progress of the various actions, what is advancing and what is not.
5. The City Committees and CARP working group, together with community feedback, would develop an overview of the terms of the proposed ordinance. This would provide guidance to the City Legal Department, which would draft the ordinance.
6. Set a procedural timetable for city consideration of the omnibus ordinance, resolutions and individual policies during 2019 or 2020. Recognize the aggressive timetable needed for CARP action.
7. Include reviews and advice from CARP working group, per the CARP Request that the “CARP working group continue as an independent task force to assist with implementing plan actions, to identify projects or programs that could be carried out by interested volunteer residents, such as education campaigns, fundraising, etc.”

Why combine CARP regulatory changes into an Omnibus Ordinance?

1. The City Council has already approved the actions, policy changes, and resolutions described in CARP. This approval merits a simplified process for implementation of CARP and enhanced transparency in tracking its implementation.

2. Climate actions overlap multiple department responsibilities (e.g., health, buildings, zoning, public works, environment), and can more efficiently and transparently progress if they are combined into an omnibus action, rather than break the approved CARP actions into separate bills advanced through multiple separate committees.
3. More transparent for the City and the public to track what is advancing and what has failed to advance.
4. More efficient for the City and community to discuss, manage and engage on proposed legislation.
5. More efficient for City Legal Dept to draft the ordinance from the outset, rather than push various community groups each to submit draft legislation that would in any case require reworking by the city.
6. City Legal Dept can work with City staff on the ordinance for presentation to City Council.

Note: City Legal Dept would have to provide guidance on administrative law process. Presumably City committees would still review the portions of the Omnibus Ordinance that pertain to their areas of expertise, and work with the City Legal Department on the drafting of the ordinance before reading/s at City Council. CARP Resolutions and Policy changes should, to the extent feasible, follow the same simplified process that the ordinance follows since they too have received City Council approval as part of CARP.

Attachment A: Calls for City regulatory action from the Approved Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP):

- ❖ Environmental Justice:
 - Adopt an environmental justice ordinance, building on the work of Environmental Justice Evanston and the Equity and Empowerment Commission.
- ❖ Energy:
 - Develop a Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions policy for new municipal buildings in 2019.
 - Explore the feasibility of instituting a climate action tax/fee to be paid by the largest producers of GHGs to pay the costs of implementing the actions of the plan. Such funds could be used to create low-cost loans or small grants to encourage residential energy efficiency improvements, particularly for income-qualified residents.
- ❖ Waste:
 - Require that capital projects divert construction and demolition debris from the landfill and incorporate a percentage of reclaimed material into projects where practicable.
 - City Policy? Work with waste haulers to ensure that our city’s garbage ends up in landfills that are managed responsibly and use methane gas capture technology to generate energy.
 - Require waste haulers to complete regular waste characterization studies for each waste stream.
 - Combat food waste by requiring retailers and restaurants to donate, reduce, reuse, or compost their unsold food, creating “zero-waste sections” where products are sold close to their expiration dates, and designating “zero-waste coaches” to raise awareness among staff and help manage products reaching the end of their marketable life. Edible unsold

products shall be donated. When not edible, organic waste shall be composted through a City-approved vendor.

- Eliminate petroleum-based, single-use products through phasing out the use of single-use plastics by 2025. Require food service retailers to use biodegradable, compostable or recyclable packaging (per City of Evanston recycling specifications). Explore the feasibility of establishing a reusable takeout container service.
- Implement a plastic straw and stirrer-free or opt-in policy for businesses that provide food and/or beverage services, with appropriate options for people with disabilities.
- Reduce construction and demolition waste by ensuring that strong recycling and reuse requirements are met for all building-related permits. Require that all real estate developments that receive financial assistance from the City or special zoning approval adhere to a higher standard of recycling and reuse.
- Update and revise the disposable plastic shopping bag ban to achieve its intended outcome.
- Support the preservation, reuse, repurposing and retrofit of existing structures to reduce demolition waste, preserve the embodied energy and materials, while avoiding the energy usage related to demolition.
- Encourage grocery stores to offer bulk food sales to reduce packaging.
- (City sponsored Contest?) Encourage and support creative solutions to consumption reduction: reuse, repair, and repurposing initiatives, including tool libraries, library of things, swap events, food-share opportunities, repair clinics, etc.

❖ Green Infrastructure / Urban Canopy

- Develop a definition of natural and open spaces in Evanston. That prioritizes planting and preservation of native species of plants and trees on public property.
- Commit to protect, conserve, and expand natural areas throughout the city such as Isabella Woods, Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary, the North Shore Channel, Perkins Woods, existing habitat, etc.
- Expand the geographic distribution of green infrastructure throughout the City.
- Efficiently utilize public land to increase stormwater infiltration and detention while enhancing the primary use of the property.
- Phase out the use of gas- and propane-powered leafblowers, lawnmowers and construction equipment; provide a timeline by which they need to be replaced with electric or battery-powered options.
- Adopt a tree preservation ordinance that requires obtaining a permit for tree removal on private property; include exceptions for diseased and nuisance trees; develop a fee structure that does not overburden income-constrained property owners.
- Create Incentives: Prioritize planting and preservation of native species of plants and trees on public and private property through education, incentives and other promotional programs.
- Sponsor a bill to return municipal home rule of pesticides: Reduce pesticide (insecticides and herbicides) and chemical fertilizer use community-wide through City policy and community education.

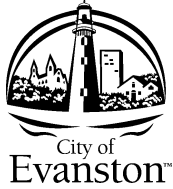
❖ Investments:

- Align investment strategies and advocacy initiatives with CARP goals through a resolution that defines and implements an approach to sustainable investing that considers the risks associated with climate change and fully integrates environmental, social and corporate governance considerations into the City’s investment decision-making process. This investment philosophy should be adopted with a clear, thoughtful approach to considering the long-term environmental and social sustainability of the entities in which the City invests.
- ❖ Building and Zoning Codes.
- Develop a strategy to transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (NZE) building standards in 2019. Implement strategy via building code update effective starting in 2020.
 - Use best practices in each category of green building standards. Address all aspects of the building, including construction, energy use, water use, impacts on nature and wildlife (e.g. birds), and on the community (e.g. transportation).
 - Require NZE building codes for residential and commercial new construction and retrofits by 2030.
 - Include energy audits as part of the building permit approval process for residential, commercial and industrial modifications and additions.
 - Update the energy and water benchmarking ordinance to gather information on renewable energy purchases, renewable energy on-site generation, energy efficiency upgrades, waste management data (recycling, composting) and other relevant information.
 - Adopt policies that require retro-commissioning for larger buildings and building energy audits for smaller buildings.
 - Create a Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program to support residential and non-residential energy efficiency initiatives.
 - Implement a sustainable business recognition program focused on increasing access to renewable energy supply options, reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency, waste reduction and diversion strategies, resource efficiency, sustainable purchasing and cost-savings.
 - Building codes: permeable surfaces and green infrastructure. Prioritize managing stormwater before it enters the sewer system through a combination of overland flow, detention, and infiltration strategies (for example, permeable surfaces).
 - Revise or implement building codes that reduce threats to vulnerable wildlife species, particularly birds (migratory and local).
 - Update plumbing codes to allow for non-potable water reuse for irrigation and other domestic uses.
 - Require recycling at all properties. Adopt policies that provide all properties equal access to waste diversion services such as recycling and composting. Require that all properties make recycling receptacles clearly accessible to tenants, patrons and visitors. Facilitate, encourage and incentivize all properties to engage in a composting program.
 - Through revision of the building code, ensure that developers undertaking new development or redevelopment projects adopt practices and include infrastructure that encourages trips by walking, bicycling and on transit through reducing the amount of parking.
 - Establish an expedited process through the City’s zoning and building code for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

- Ensure that landscaping requirements articulated in the zoning code include the preservation of the maximum possible number of existing trees, the use of native plantings and the preservation of natural areas whenever possible.

❖ Transportation.

- Providing incentives such as density bonuses or expedited review for development projects that have mixed-used zoning (residential, retail and office uses) and commit to sustainable transportation practices. For example, prioritizing access by pedestrians and bicyclists, providing electric vehicle charging stations and discounted transit passes, as well as fee-appropriate parking.
- Incentivize the use of electric and hybrid vehicles. Assess fees relative to the impacts identified and earmark them for investments in transit, bicycle and pedestrian networks.
- No idling: steeper fines for diesel vehicles, such as buses and construction vehicles and equipment.



Memorandum

To: Wendy Pollock, Environment Board Co-Chair; Scott Osborne, Environment Board Co-Chair; Members of the Environment Board

From: David D. Stoneback, Public Works Agency Director
Darrell A. King, Bureau Chief – Water Production

Subject: Stormwater Management Plan
Response to Comments from Public Hearing on 4/12/18

Date: February 11, 2019

Background:

As part of the MS4 permit that allows the City to operate a stormwater system, a Stormwater Management Plan (SWP) was developed. A public hearing was held on 4/12/18, and comments were received at that meeting. This memo is a response to comments received.

Summary:

1. What about nutrients? Are nutrients included within the plan? What type of education is done or provided to residents in terms of helping with nutrient management on private property?

Response: Nutrients are considered as pollutants released as part of lawn and garden care. The SWP references this under Public Education and Outreach (section 3.1 of the SWP). A flyer was developed by Sustainability providing educational information on effective prevention to minimize discharge of pollutants from private property. This information is available on the City's website at the following location: <https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/departments/public-works/public-outreach/stormwater-runoff>. In addition, this information was provided as an eNews press release via Community Engagement.

2. It seems to be a really important overlap to have greenways and forestry focused on reducing pesticide usage, seems like there should be more overlap between their work and the stormwater management.

Response: Staff from Greenways and Forestry were involved in both the development of the SWP and its implementation.

3. Are we working with other municipalities to do more watershed management planning? Can we borrow from neighbors to make our practices better, particularly in green infrastructure.

Response: At a high level, watershed management planning is generally supervised by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and our neighbors are part of this. For detailed implementation practices, there is communication between us and our neighbors to share ideas for best management practices.

4. How will comments be incorporated into the plan?

Response: Comments were reviewed by Public Works Agency staff and were incorporated where appropriate.

5. The Environment Board would like to see a larger plan that is more than just stormwater management

Response: This is not required for this permit, but can be done. The City's Complete and Green Streets Policy requires more detailed green infrastructure planning and reporting, but this report is given annually to the Transportation and Parking Committee.

6. Monitoring and tracking is really important to the plan. It might be helpful to come back once a year to give the Environment Board an update on the plan.

Response: This is incorporated into the SWP section on Public Education and Outreach (section 3.1). Staff attended the October 11, 2018 Environment Board meeting and provided a summary of the Annual Facility Inspection Report submitted to the Illinois Environment Protection Agency. This practice will continue annually. The report is due to IEPA by June 1 of each year.

7. More could be done from an outreach and engagement standpoint about notifying people of the plan and the process. Flyers, posters, onsite education, etc.

Response: Staff will investigate alternative methods to expand outreach, but are limited by available staffing and funding.

8. Would like to see an update that is much more comprehensive, primarily related to green infrastructure.

Response: See response to #5 above.