



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Environment Board

Thursday, September 12, 2019

6:30 p.m.

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

Members Present: Cherie Leblanc-Fisher, Wendy Pollock, Jerri Garl, Tom Klitzkie, Ben Kaplan, Sarah Liddell, Michelle Redfield, Caroline Peyer

Members Absent: Christopher Kucharczyk

Staff Present: Kumar Jensen, Leslie Perez, Paul D'Agostino

Guests: Rebecca Bennett, Stephanie Reynolds, Bob Heuer, Jim Kotz, Frederick Pardoe, Doreen Price

Presiding Member: Wendy Pollock

1. Declaration of Quorum

W. Pollock called meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and a quorum was established.

2. Public Comment

R. Bennet spoke against the use of gas power leaf blower and campaigned for the City to adopt a policy or ordinance that would ban the use of gas powered leaf blower.

B. Heuer from the Democratic Party Evanston's Climate Action Team introduced himself to the board. His organization adopted a resolution supporting the implementation of CARP.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July

T. Klitzkie motioned to accept minutes as amended, C. Leblanc-Fisher seconded, all approved.

4. Announcements and Governance

A. Selection of Co-Chair

J. Garl motioned to nominate C. Leblanc-Fisher as Co-Chair to the Evanston Environment Board. S. Liddell seconded, all approved. C. Leblanc-Fisher accepted the nomination.

K. Jensen presented CARP related informational materials regarding waste policies as discussed in the July meeting.

K. Jensen announced J. Garl was reappointed to the Board.

5. 2019 Goal: Advance Implementation of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)

Staff Reports/Updates

A. CARP Human Services Recap

K. Jensen reports that he presented the policy package discussed at previous meetings. Human Services Committee discussed leaf blower ban, balloon release policy, and the plastic bag ban policy. The committee referred seven items from the policy package back to the Environment Board. The main four are eliminating petroleum based single use plastic, implementing a plastic straw/stirrer policy, requiring recycling at all properties, and revising the plastic bag ban.

B. City Budget Process

K. Jensen updated the Board on the City's budget process. The City is developing a two year budget that would cover 2020 and 2021. The proposed City budget will be released October 4th.

C. Natural Areas and Tree Preservation

W. Pollock discussed the draft Natural Areas and Tree Preservation policy that would recommend the City develop an ordinance that would preserve public land as natural areas and designates them as such. The ordinance would require the City to manage the designated natural areas in conjunction with volunteers. The ordinance would also designate a City employee to oversee management of the lands.

Member Reports/Updates

A. Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763)

W. Pollock reports that a formal review of HR 763 has not been taken up by the Board. Ms. Pollock asked the Board for feedback on the House Resolution. C. Leblanc-Fisher expressed concern that HR 763 resolution was beyond the scope of the local environment board to provide comments. M. Redfield expressed concern over the potential high tax associated with such a program in lieu of the City's financial problems.

B. CARP Waste Focus Area

a. Waste Performance Metrics

B. Kaplan reported on the development of waste performance metrics that may be utilized by the City. Mr. Kaplan reports the largest segment of waste stream is food at 30 percent. He asked the Board if the food waste stream should be the focus of the initial development of waste performance metrics. K. Jensen discussed the two waste characterization studies mandated by contract with the City's residential and condo refuse hauler.

b. Commercial Solid Waste Franchise RFP

K. Jensen reported the City hired a consultant to review and recommend on how to revise the current commercial franchise contract. He also reports the City took over the commercial recycling collections for apartment building with 6 or more units that are currently on the commercial franchise contract.

c. Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance Evaluation

K. Jensen reported on the plastic bag ordinance.

C. Global Climate Strike

W. Pollock recommended the Board formally support the Global Climate Strike rallies held around the world. J. Garl motioned to adopt a statement of solidarity for the youth organizing the Global Climate Strike rallies. B. Kaplan seconded, all approved.

6. Items for Future Meetings

W. Pollock discussed adding items for future meetings.

7. Adjournment

M. Redfield moved to adjourn the meeting, B. Kaplan seconded. W. Pollock adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 10, 2019