MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, October 10, 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, Michelle Redfield, Caroline Peyer, Christopher Kucharczyk

Members Absent: Sarah Liddell, Ben Kaplan

Staff Present: Kumar Jensen, Leslie Perez, Darrell King, David Stoneback, Chris Vennetta

Guests: Linus Hoeller, Bob Heuer, Sylvia Wooler, Beth Flintoft, Jerry Brennan

Presiding Member: Cherie Leblanc-Fisher

1. Declaration of Quorum
   C. Leblanc-Fisher called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and a quorum was established.

2. Public Comment
   B. Heuer from the Democratic Party Evanston’s Climate Action Team expressed the organization’s support for CARP and explained that his group is working on climate issues with ETHS students and the City-School Liaison Committee.

   B. Flintoft expressed concern about the plan to use artificial turf at the new Robert Crown Center. Concerns include the crumb rubber base (currently being studied by EPA) and blades of polyethylene grass, which can enter the environment and contribute to an increase in injuries over natural grass. She asked if due diligence had been done before natural turf was eliminated and requested staff and aldermen to look into this.

   S. Wooler expressed concern about plans to demolish the old Robert Crown Center and observed that a recent incident of dust leaving the site resulted in neighborhood children experiencing nosebleeds, wheezing, coughing. She urged the City to consider deconstruction instead. (She is an architect.)

   Jerry Brennan lives on a gravel stretch of Wesley that leads to the golf course. The area floods and he would like the street improved, including a storm sewer.

   The Board agreed to work more closely with the City-School Liaison Committee. Their next meeting is November 19th.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September
The Board agreed to provide L. Perez with draft notes within two weeks of an EEB meeting in order to assist him in getting the formal minutes to Board members the Thursday prior to that meeting. T. Klitzkie motioned to accept minutes, M. Redfield seconded, all approved.

4. Announcements
A. General Office of Sustainability Updates
K. Jensen provided an update on the City’s two-year proposed budget. See presentation in Google Drive. Highlights:

- Waste Reduction Workshops are ongoing with 25 events now scheduled. An online survey is available. Staff will compile feedback for EEB in November. EEB is then to review and develop policy recommendations for December meeting (Waste Working Group, see below). Recommendations will be made available for public comment in early 2020 then submitted to Human Services.
- The NOPE Campaign to reduce contamination of the recycling stream has been successful, according to a survey. Three animated videos include one called “wish-cycling.” The survey indicated lack of awareness of the ban on shredded paper and coffee cups, and confusion about red Solo cups.
- A second WTS air quality study community meeting will be held on October 24th. No new data will be presented, but citizens requested another opportunity to hear about the study.
- New Americorps Fellow Brittanie Giroux will start Friday and attend the next EEB meeting.
- CARP implementation activities are not identified in the current draft budget narrative.

The Board strongly endorsed Mr. Kumar’s efforts to highlight CARP implementation activities as the budget process moves forward.

American Green Zone Alliance workshop—In response to concerns about gas blowers that have come before the Board in recent months, COE, on EEB recommendation, has joined Wilmette in sponsoring an upcoming workshop that will inform landscape professionals about transition to electric equipment.

5. 2019 Goal: Implement Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)

Staff Reports/Updates
A. City Budget Process
K. Jensen provided updates to the City’s two-year budget process. Mr. Jensen reported on the CIP fund, Water fund and other budget line items that will impact CARP implementation. The 2020-21 budget discussion will take place at City Council on Monday, October 14th. The first public hearing will take place on Saturday, October 26th.

B. MS4 Stormwater Update
D. King presented the draft permit for discharge to the Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) permit and Stormwater Management Plan. The City has 18 MS4 outfalls; 3 discharge to Lake Michigan, the rest to the channel. Comments/questions included:

- Public education and environmental justice (EJ) goals—Noting that some remain incomplete, the Board suggested that CGE’s Watershed Collective and Environmental Justice Evanston might assist in these areas.
- Keeping storm sewers clear—In response to a question, D. Stoneback explained that an ordinance change last year made it a violation to push/blow leaves into the street. Public Works has developed an informational door hanger, available soon, and PW Department supervisors now have authority to issue citations for violations (of this and other ordinances).
- Report schedule—the Board asked that the MS4 report be provided earlier next year since it is developed in July.

C. Stormwater Management Guide Presentation
The Guide is being developed in part in response to CARP recommendations. D. Stoneback will make similar presentations soon to the Utilities Commission and Parking/Transportation Committee as well as CGE Watershed Collective.

A working document, the guide is the result of monthly meetings by a group of staff, including staff engineer Chris Vanetta (also present). Some highlights:

- Background—Severe storms and basement back-ups in 1987 led to long-delayed action and installation of The Relief Sewer System, at a cost of $210 million. The system was designed for a 5-year storm event. (The state recently revised the standard from 5 years to 3 years.) Current design standards should be able to handle higher flood events and will be considered based on associated costs. An underlying question: What will acceptable level of stormwater management be?
- Hydrologic and hydraulic model—See timeline p.41 of draft. An RFP will be issued soon for consultant to gather data and develop a model in 2020–21. Flow monitors will be installed for 2 years. Abundant rain will help assure adequate data. The model will be used to identify weak spots, where relief sewers need to be extended, where retention installations are needed, and where green infrastructure (GI) may be effective. (There are 2 rain gauges, at Cleveland and Hartrey and at the Water Plant.)
- Green infrastructure—Roughly two-thirds of Evanston is unsuitable due to poor soil drainage. Suitable areas are generally east of Ridge. The City is planning to install GI (e.g., permeable pavers in parking spaces) as part of the Main Street Improvement Project.
- Maintenance—The guide addresses maintenance routines for GI, and the proposed 2020 budget includes funds for upkeep ($25,000). Experiences with the Civic Center parking lot and swales and other areas (e.g., Ecology Center entry drive) have contributed to more realistic planning. Vendors will be hired to clean 2 or 3 permeable parking lot areas per year for 5 years and then establish a regular cleaning schedule. (It is not economical for the City to buy the equipment itself.)
- Stormwater utility fee—The groundwork is being laid for separating water and sewer utility fees at some point in the future (likely at least 2–3 years). This would enable the City to assess sewer fees on private property based on percentage of
impervious surface. This approach is used in other areas as an incentive to maintain pervious surfaces and slow stormwater runoff. At this point, only developments of 5,000+sf are required to retain stormwater onsite.

Board Member Comments/Questions:

- **Environmental justice**—Stoneback is aware of the potential EJ issue with respect to increased utility fees costs for low-income homeowners. Jerri Garl offered assistance from Environmental Justice Evanston, a working committee of CGE, to review possible approaches for structuring the stormwater utility fee.
- **Natural Areas**—Garl and Pollock noted that trees and Natural Areas provide nature-based stormwater management services and suggested that the guide cross-reference these areas, which are planned and managed by the forestry and greenways divisions. The Urban Forest Management Plan, which is in the process of being updated, also might be included as an appendix.
- **Graywater**—In response to a question from M. Redfield, Stoneback explained that in this region, it would not be cost-effective to capture and distribute graywater system-wide, but that could be done on a single-site basis for a newly constructed industry or development. He noted graywater-source toilets exist in some areas.

D. **Natural Areas Memo**

W. Pollock motioned that EEB adopt the final version of a memorandum that recommends changes in COE policies and ordinances to designate Natural Areas as a category of public land and establish processes for managing them. These recommendations support CARP implementation and are based on an October 2018 EEB resolution and April 2019 Mayoral Proclamation. J. Garl seconded; all approved.

K. Jensen recommended the Board advance the recommendation directly to the Human Services rather than waiting to bundle it with other CARP-related recommendations.

C. Kucharczyk noted that the memorandum format serves as a good model for EEB’s future CARP-related recommendations.

**Member Reports/Updates**

A. **CARP Waste Focus Area**
   a. **Waste Performance Metrics**
      C. Kucharczyk proposed the creation of subcommittees to help with the task of developing waste performance metrics.

B. **Code Enforcement**
   Continued

C. **Transportation and Parking Committee Liaison**
   Continued

D. **Creation of Subcommittees**
C. Fisher described the function of task forces or working groups under the Board’s oversight to advance the work of the Board in certain areas outside the regular monthly meetings.

Two areas were selected with initial chair assignments:
- Waste Working Group—focus on the Zero Waste goals and metrics assigned to the Board for CARP implementation, including drafting code and policy recommendations (Chris Kucharczyk, interim chair)
- CARP Implementation Task Force— to support and track overall CARP implementation on behalf of the Board and serve as a liaison with the upcoming CARP Coordination Group in order to identify gaps and needed updates and additional actions (Jerri Garl, chair)

These groups must comply with the Open Meetings Act: meetings must be in publicly accessible locations (need permission if on private property); notice (including agenda) posted onsite 48 hours in advance; actions can be taken only if on the agenda; members take minutes and provide to Kumar for posting. Participants can include people who are not on the Environment Board.

- Kumar will provide administrative support; he will need agendas at least 72 hours in advance. He encouraged groups to set meeting dates for subsequent meeting as soon as possible.

C. Kucharczyk motioned for the creation of two working groups; Waste Working Group and CARP Implementation Task Force, M. Redfield seconded, all approved

6. Items for Future Meetings
   A. Simple Recycling Contract
   B. Environmental Justice Evanston – Environmental Justice Resolution

7. Adjournment
   J. Garl moved to adjourn the meeting, C. Kucharczyk seconded. W. Pollock adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 14, 2019