



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Environment Board

Thursday, November 14, 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, Ben Kaplan

Members Absent: Sarah Liddell

Staff Present: Kumar Jensen, Leslie Perez, Brittanie Giroux

Guests: Michael Berman, Jonathan Newsma, Jillian Gilbourne, Sue Laue

Presiding Member: Wendy Pollock

1. Declaration of Quorum

W. Pollock called meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and a quorum was established.

2. Public Comment

Mr and Mrs Laue, representing the Democratic Party of Evanston and Indivisible Evanston, expressed their organizations' support for climate action and interest in becoming better informed about CARP implementation efforts.

J. Gilbourne from Northwestern University also expressed support for CARP and interest in identifying ways in which the university might lend resources to implementation efforts.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October

J. Garl motioned to accept minutes, B. Kaplan seconded, all approved.

4. Announcements

A. Utilities Commission Update

J. Nieuwsma, Chair of the Utilities Commission provided a brief overview of the Commission's role and an update about activities relevant to CARP implementation. These include:

- Benchmarking. Monitor reports.
- Electricity procurement (including aggregation). Contract is up for renewal in 2020

- Net zero energy for city buildings. Developing resolution in the first quarter 2020. The resolution would cover existing as well as new buildings. This may serve as a template for future expansion to other buildings.
- Stormwater Management. Monitoring hydraulic/hydrologic study. There will be some overlap with the Environment Board's focus on resilience.
- Allowing solar permits in the historic district of the City. Will assign members to short-term task force to help clarify policy guidelines, to include representatives of Preservation Commission and Environment Board.

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

Staff Reports/Updates

A. Solar Permtting and Preservation

K. Jensen asked for two volunteers from EEB to join a short-term task force to help clarify policy guidelines for solar in historic districts. T. Klitzkie and C. Peyer volunteered; C. Kucharczyk agreed to serve as alternate.

B. Bylaws Discussion & Meeting Schedule

K. Jensen presented updated bylaws, which largely reflect duties assigned to EEB by City Code, and also clarify rules governing subcommittees. Subcommittees may include both voting members (who must be members of EEB) and nonvoting members.

C. Waste Policy Package Engaement Feedback

Results of an opinion survey on current and proposed waste policies and practices, administered by staff in a variety of settings, are presented in the meeting packet (broken into responses from residents and from business representatives). Staff noted the importance of reaching a representative sample of residents in outreach efforts of this kind as they apply an equity lens to all CARP implementation efforts; they continue to look for additional venues and opportunities to broaden representation.

D. Waste Policy Package Peer City Review

Relevant policies from other cities are summarized in a staff memo that begins on p. 62 of the meeting packet. Among the lessons highlighted: the need for public consultation and sensitivity to potential impact on vulnerable populations; the importance of public education; and the value of a phased-in approach.

These two reports provide background for the EEB Waste Working Group, which is tasked with developing recommended policy directions on the following:

- Update and revise plastic bag ban
- Eliminate petroleum-based single-use products through phasing out single-use plastics by 2025
- Require recycling at all properties
- Implement a plastic straw and stirrer-free policy
- Ban balloon release (request from Ald. Rue-Simmons during Human Services)

Target date for returning to the Board with recommendations is December 12. Additional feedback will then be solicited from the community, with the aim of having ordinances ready for City Council by March/April.

Member Reports/Updates

A. Subcommittees/Task Forces

a. Waste Performance Metrics

Purpose: to advance implementation of CARP Zero Waste goals assigned to the Board, including drafting code and policy recommendations

b. CARP Implementation Task Force

Purpose: 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 track implementation actions and identify gaps and needed updates.

The group will include ex-officio members from Citizens Greener Evanston and the Utilities Commission.

B. Transportation and Parking Committee

B. Kaplan has observed several meetings, as EEB liaison. C. LeBlanc-Fisher suggested that as we visit with other boards and commissions, we think of ourselves as “positive ambassadors for CARP.” Other members suggested that B Kaplan also consider networking with Go Evanston, which works on transportation issues, including ways to make the city more bicycle friendly.

C. Blower Ban Update and Next Steps

T. Klitzkie reported on the American Green Zone Alliance workshop, held earlier in the day. The City of Evanston co-sponsored the workshop as part of a response to CARP goals and other concerns about gas-powered blowers that have come before the Board in recent months. The purpose of the workshop was to inform landscape professionals about electric alternatives to gas-powered equipment. Many of the approximately 50 participants were municipal employees. T. Klitzkie and W. Pollock also provided a draft memo, prepared before the workshop took place, that provides background on blower bans in other cities as well as on licensing of landscape and related professionals in nearby municipalities. Suggested next steps: continue outreach and education; require licensing of landscape and related companies; adopt a phased-in ban. They will come back to the next meeting with a proposal focused on licensing.

D. CARP Coordination Meeting Report Out

B. Kaplan provided a memo that includes questions and recommendations from the group’s initial meeting, some of them answered during discussion of tonight’s staff report. K. Jensen provided a visual of the waste hierarchy used in staff presentations as additional background for the group. The group requested guidance from staff about how to engage with the process of hiring a new commercial waste hauler; they were advised to send a memo directly to the Director of Public Works with their recommendations and offer of assistance. They also have suggestions about how to use a waste characterization study to raise public awareness and understanding.

6. Items for Future Meetings

A. Simple Recycling Contract

B. Environmental Justice Evanston – Environmental Justice Resolution

7. Adjournment

M. Redfield moved to adjourn the meeting, C. Kucharczyk seconded. W. Pollock adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, December 12, 2019