MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, March 12, 2020
6:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2404

Members Present: Cherie Leblanc-Fisher, Wendy Pollock, Jerri Garl, Michelle Redfield, Caroline Peyer, Christopher Kucharczyk, Sarah Liddell

Members Absent: Tom Klitzkie, Ben Kaplan

Staff Present: Kumar Jensen, Leslie Perez, Brittanie Giroux

Guests: Jasmin Flores, Ryley Boddeker-O’Conner, Gus Haffner

Presiding Member: Wendy Pollock

1. Declaration of Quorum
   W. Pollock called meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and a quorum was established.

2. Public Comment
   No Comments

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January
   J. Garl motioned to accept minutes, C. Leblanc-Fisher seconded, all approved.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February
   C. Kucharczyk motioned to accept minutes, M. Redfield seconded, all approved.

5. Announcements

   A. Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebrations
      K. Jensen reported on Earth Day/Arbor Day celebrations. The City will sponsor community cleanup days at various City locations and residents can request a neighborhood cleanup on the City’s website. The Ecology Center will host events celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Ladd Arboretum. All these events will take place on Saturday, April 25th.

   B. 6th Grade Climate Action Showcase
      K. Jensen reported the 6th Grade Climate Action Showcase will take place on May 27th.
C. Board Member Announcements
S. Liddell announced her resignation from the Board effective immediately. She expressed a hope the selection process for new EEB members would find qualified minority applicants.

6. Staff Updates

A. Sustain Evanston Progress
B. Giroux reported Sustain Evanston Program for 2020 will run from May 4th through August 3rd. The goal is certify 32 new businesses for the program. Three new categories were added to the program: landscaping, healthcare and health, beauty and wellness. This is in addition to existing office/retail and restaurants categories.

B. Follow-up from February 24th City Council Meeting
K. Jensen made a presentation to City Council at the February 24th City Council meeting regarding the global climate crisis and how it would affect Evanston and more specifically the eight legislative items for 2020 that the Mayor is supporting. The Mayor and City Council are supportive but would like a timeline for the implementation of policies for 2020. Mr. Jensen is working with department directors and the Assistant City Manager to develop a more detailed timeline on the eight policies. Three policies that may be ready for City Council in late April or May are the Single Use Bag Policy, Universal Recycling/Composting Rule, and Environmental Justice Resolution.

C. Landscape Contractor Registration Process
The City Council approved a business registration requirement to update City code which includes a landscape contractor registration process. Contractors would be required to complete a survey regarding their operations.

D. Energy Procurement/Zero Emissions Strategy
The City Council approved a six month extension with the current alternative energy supplier. Starting in June 2020, the electricity rate will drop to 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

The City Council also approved a $65,000 contract with Elevate Energy to develop a zero emissions strategy for municipal buildings and operations. The new strategy will include fleet services. The vendor is tasked to develop three scenarios: business as usual, zero emissions by 2035, and a more aggressive scenario. The vendor will also host multiple community meetings.

7. Member Updates

A. Zero Waste Working Group
M. Redfield reported the group worked on the phasing in process. The group would like to determine the target of the policy and how they would meet the requirements of the policy.
B. Parking/Transportation Committee
K. Jensen reported Alderman Fleming requested an update on the Transportation and Mobility section of CARP. The goal is to develop policies and/or guidelines for public infrastructure project before focusing on private projects.

C. Solar and Preservation Work Group
C. Peyer provided a report on the Solar and Preservation Work Group meeting.

D. CARP Implementation Task Force
J. Garl reported the group is focusing on the structure of the March 25th meeting which has been cancelled. A goal was to develop a communication strategy for CARP implementation.

E. Phasing Out Fossil-Fuel-Powered Blowers
W. Pollock reported the draft memo is available for review and comments. She discussed the operations of the Greenways Division of Public Works and how they would slowly phase out gas powered lawn equipment. There are concerns with the feasibility of electric lawn maintenance equipment when it comes to hours of operation, the large number of batteries required to maintain current operation standards and safety of electric lawn equipment (electric chainsaws are not safety rated as of yet).

8. Adjournment
C. Kucharczyk moved to adjourn the meeting, C. Leblanc-Fisher seconded. W. Pollock adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, April 9, 2020