

Minutes for the Portage Environmental Board

October 14, 2009

Call to order: 7:07 p.m. by Chair, William Schwartz.

Attendance: William Schwartz, Jason Howard, Aud Weirenga, Denise Clegg, Dan VanPeenan, Sara Wick, Martha Dahlinger, Becca Schramm and Martin Sepanik.

Excused: Bryce Maurer

Staff Present: Chris Barnes

Guest: Bill Hughes, KECC

Minutes: August minutes approved without changes. September minutes approved after changes listed:

Bryce Maurer was excused from attending.

Tim Britain represents the contractor of the Austin Lake Boat Ramp.

The board Chair and Vic-Chair are elected by the members.

New members Becca Schramm and Martha Dahlinger were introduced and continuing members introduced themselves. Becca's email address is becca.schramm@stryker.com and Martha's email address is MDhlnq@aol.com. Martha's address is not working at this time and may be changing.

Announcements: Green drinks is moving to Old Burdick's at the Holiday Inn west. The next meeting on 10/27 at 5:30 will feature Dr. Harold Glasser head of sustainability programming at WMU.

The next Sustainability Forum is on October 15, 2009 at the Portage District Library from 12noon-1:30 p.m. The program will be on fleet transportation.

Wild Ones meets at the Disciples of Christ Church on Winchell on the 4th Wednesday of the months of Jan., Feb., March, Oct., and Nov. Social is at 7:00p.m. The program starts at 7:30 p.m. The October program is on Host & Food Plants, Insect Pollinators. The November program is on Climate Change & The Future Of Biodiversity In SW Michigan, Guest speaker is David Karowe, Biology Professor at WMU.

Legislation Connection of the Chamber of Commerce will have a presentation on 10/26 focusing on domestic energy, resources, and policy.

Old Business:

Rain Garden on Garden Lane: Basis is constructed and graded. Plant selection is next. No mow grass is in the plan. Martha will meet with Chris regarding plant selection.

Marty is writing the report to the City on the Purple Loosestrife project. New this year is the site north of I-94 along the west bank of the Portage Creek. Also asking for signage for sites of where plants are treated.

Holiday Lighting: To cut costs the City will be lighting fewer trees. As needed the City will be switching to LED lights.

Aud presented information on a grant available for the switch to LED lighting. The funds are primarily for LED used in street lights and signals.

New Business:

Groundwater Analysis: Chris presented data the City has collected related to retention basins levels. All but 1 within city limits have increased over the long term.

Lakeview Display Board: Denise previewed the information prior to posting. The board gave its approval. Martha requested a review of the materials so that an emphasis is placed on native plants. She will get back with Denise within a short period of time. Ideas for the next board will be discussed at the next meeting. Martha volunteered to work on the next display.

Green-A-Thon: Discussion occurred regarding participation. Dan will attempt to attend the Youth Advisory Council meeting on October 26 at 6:30 p.m. Bill will attend if Dan can't. Green-A-Thon will be on 4/23/10. Jason volunteered to participate.

Comments:

Bill Hughes Chair of KECC talked about deer problems in Kalamazoo.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Clegg