

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD, CITY OF PORTAGE**  
**April 8, 2009**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:02 pm by Denise Clegg, Chair

**Members Present:** Denise Clegg, Andrew Cone, Jason Howard, Martin Sepanik, Daniel VanPeenen, Sara Wick and Audrey Wierenga. **Excused Absence:** Bruce Alden, Chris Barnes and Bill Schwartz

**May minutes:** Approved as submitted

**Information and Announcements:** Aud announced “Green Drinks” will again be at Charley Fosters’ on April 28 at 5:30 pm, with the Southwest Michigan Conservancy presenting. Jason reported on Portage’s annual “Quality of Life” survey. No major changes from last year’s survey were noted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Earth Day** celebration scheduled for April 25, 2009, Portage will have the Green-A-Thon with exhibits from at least six local businesses.

**Joint program with Portage District Library,** Sara reminded EB to have suggestions for a possible joint Fall program with the Library and whether that would include having our meeting there.

**Purple Loosestrife** plans for 2009, Marty reported, include similar process of 2008, but 15 plants of beetles will be purchased instead of the 2008’s 20 plants. Cost per pot has increased from \$35 to \$40. This year EB may supplement beetle releases with digging up plants at low-density sites.

**Environmental Board Process for Public Hearings** has been approved by the City Council. Denise attended the Council meeting to clarify certain aspects of the process.

**Green-A-Thon** flier was discussed and supported.

**Electric Bills for Christmas Lights** for Portage were analyzed and reported by Aud. Only 10% of current usage would be necessary using LEDs. Next step is to discuss this finding with Chris at May meeting.

**COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION REPORTS**

**Kalamazoo Environmental Concerns Committee report** Aud and Bill Hughes (of KECC) reported on recent meeting which included need for by-laws, sustainability and proposed natural gas vehicles, and Kalamazoo green team.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Environmental Summary Activity Report** – tabled until May

**Bi-Annual report** to City Council authored by Denise, approved after minor changes.

**Rain garden at new water treatment building,** master gardeners showing interest, more information at May meeting.

**Sustainability Covenant,** deferred to May meeting

**Sewer subcommittee,** three members needed: Andrew, Dan and Denise (Marty as backup)

**Lakeview Display,** Andrew will design Fall display

**Comments of citizens present:** None

**Comments of board members:** None

**Adjournment:** 8:10 pm

**Next meeting Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m., City Hall. Scheduled secretary: Bruce Alden**

**Minutes recorded by Marty Sepanik**