

Environmental Board Minutes

December 8, 2010

Members Present: Jason Howard, Martha Dahlinger, Amy Tanis, Aud Wierenga, Andy Judge, Becca Schramm, Ruth Caputo

Excused: Martin Sepanik and Daniel VanPeenen

Approval of Nov. Minutes

National Bird Count is taking place Audubon Club of Southwest Michigan

No Green Drinks in December

Single Stream Recycling – 2 streets

Announcements

New Business:

Sewer deferment update – letter was sent to the property owner with 30 days to connect or apply for a deferment. 3 of 12 connected.

City Clerk letter to our new Youth Advisor.

Dec. 7th Phosphorus state wide ban. Michigan – primarily aimed at Michigan bans phosphorus in lawn fertilizers.

Old Business:

Update on plans for April Event – Youth Advisory Council (Youth Advisory Board – walked up to the booths). Music and youth participation. Earth Day- we have to think about it. January will be assigned (Marty and Daniel did it last year)

Possible theme of the year. Earth Hour in March could be a theme. 1 hour to turn out the lights and use that as a teaching tool with a business etc. Set time when you turn the lights out to make a splash with it (City Hall etc.)

Becca willing to do the Earth Hour Article for the Portager

Joint program with library status – Ruth Caputo is willing to work on the joint program with the library.

Committee participation report

Aud is retiring from her present job but will remain a member of Kalamazoo Environmental Concerns Committee: Attended by A. Wierenga, continue discussing Phosphorus Ban. Enrolled house bill and

senate bill. They have talked to Kalamazoo Community Foundation for a 5K grant which is an organization that works on climate change/energy audits for government.

Public Comments: No visitors present

Board Comments – LED lights one of the members brought to the attention of the group about how much energy we are using. Chris did a whole assessment and we are starting to replace with LED's. Remember that small changes make a big difference over time.

Channel 22 7:00 on Tuesday's and Thursday's will be meeting recaps.

Wild Ones has reported that landscapers are using all male trees.

Stations for electric cars in parking lots at place like Meijer are coming soon.

City Shrubs – need to encourage the discontinuation of “burning bushes” Oakland drive Park. We can talk to the parks director and review the list of approved plants on the list. Some to avoid are Norway maple, Burning Bush, Non-native Honeysuckle etc. and Ruth will look for a list.

Adjourn 7:46