

## Environmental Board Meeting

October 10, 2012

Call to order: 7:01 p.m

Board Members Present: Ruth Caputo, Luis Henriquez, Chris Barnes, Bill Beck, Marty Sepanik, Catherine Niessink, Martha Dahlinger, Tim Winslow, Spencer Welling

New Members Present: Christin DeJong, Raoul Wadhwa (Youth Participant)

Guest Members: Dave Mayfield, Bob Kelter

Excused Absences: None

Minutes: September Minutes have been approved as amended.

Election of New Officers: Ruth was elected to remain chair of the board, Martha has been elected to remain vice-chair. Spencer will continue as secretary and Tim will be backup for the secretary in times when Spencer cannot attend the meeting.

Current board goals were read by Ruth to inform new members on the current projects and objectives for this current fiscal year.

### Discussion of Future Goals for Environmental Board

- Spend time working with the water systems in portage: Storm Water Management, Runoff Control, etc. (Ruth)
- Focus on waste management in hopes to get single stream recycling, recycling at apartment buildings. (Luis)
- Educate portage residents on their individual responsibilities to the environment and the surrounding area. Keeping property clear of litter, environmental degradation. (Bill)
- Address PLS by educating public on the plant and how they can contain PLS. Give examples of what past organizations or boards have done so homeowners know how to handle the invasive species. (Marty)
- Concentrate on the educational component by continuing the lake view park board, fishing fair, green-a-a-thon, website, etc. (Martha)
- Encourage more efficient land use planning. Get environmental impact viewpoints for the land use. (Tim)
- Expand awareness of invasive plants. (Catherine)

- Better publicity to figure out how to get articles in the portage in a timely fashion and how the EB will handle the issues addressed. (Catherine)
- Cutting Energy Use in government buildings, street lights, etc (Spencer)
- Plasma gasification (Bill)
- Idle reduction (Martha)
- Interaction with other Environmental related boards such as Kalamazoo EB, Western Michigan, Kalamazoo College, etc in the area to discuss sustainability issues that need to be addressed. (Chris)

The board discussed dealing with the above goals that have defined end goals, and those that do not have a goal and are just dealing with the issue constantly. The board decided to have a more cohesive plan on invasive species and to deal with new issues that have more defined goals.

The board will do more research on each bullet listed above and develop a proposal, and then vote on which ones they feel should be included in the next years goals.

#### Progress Report to City Council

- Due in November to the City Council
- The board approves the motion to approve the progress report that will be reported to City Council.

#### Old Business

- Vine Pull at October 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12 at Westlake Nature Preserve.
  - Susan Williams from the park board will be there
  - Spraying chemicals on the vines is not allowed without a license, so in order to remove the vines they will have to be pulled or cut. However, these methods allow for the plant to grow back rapidly.
  - Ruth will look into being certified but the city may have a licensed advocate to spray the chemicals on the vine.
- Purple Loose Strife
  - Check the website to give annual reports on how PLS is coming along
  - Marty is planning to send out an annual report on the PLS status.
  - Lakeview park has not been as successful in terms of PLS being consumed by the beetles.

- Report will focus on how individuals can best address PLS on their own.
- Report will be ready for circulation before the November meeting
- Water Treatment Plant
  - Maintenance plan for the next five years and the cost has been sent to all EB members via email.
  - Chris met with Jared a few weeks ago and Chris decided to regrade the land and take out the berms at the end of the month when the temperature is lower.

#### New Business

- Chris passed around a map of the master plan for the new Eliason Nature Preserve.
- Video regarding the Environment could be shown at the Youth Advisory meeting in next April.

Meeting Adjourn: 8:40 p.m.