

Environmental Board Meeting

November 14, 2012

Call to order: 7:07 p.m.

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

Excused Absences: Marty Sepanik, Raoul Wadhwa

Guest Members: Two members from Western Michigan University's Geography Department

Minutes: October Minutes have been approved.

Discussion for future goals of Environmental board:

- Chris went into depth explaining the city's water resources and storm water management.
 - Portage's Drinking water – Groundwater
 - 5 million gallons a day
 - City is host to 3 different watersheds
 - 80-90% of storm water percolates back into the groundwater
 - Small discharge into Austin, West, Long, Gourdneck, and Sugar Loaf lakes and to Portage Creek.
 - Wastewater is treated by the city of Kalamazoo.
 - No combined sewers in the city
 - Consolidated Drain near D&W picks up storm water drainage on Westnedge and Romance road.
 - Storm water issues
 - Flooding
 - NPS(Nonpoint Source) Pollution
 - Water Quality
 - High in iron and Calcium
 - City adds Fluoride, Phosphates, and Calcium.
- Ruth proposed to further look into the city's water system management.

- Retention ponds, rain gardens, city ordinances, etc.
- The board accepts the motion to begin looking further into different methods of water system in Portage.
- Board members will begin to prepare presentations for their proposals. Each proposal will be about 10 min long and will start at the December meeting. The proposals are of what the board member believes is something the Environmental Board should add to its “list of goals” for next year.

Old Business

- No new headway has been made for the water treatment plant
- Ruth made contact with the park board and members have expressed interest in dealing with invasive species.

New Business

- None

Announcements

Luis submitted the article for the December Portager.

Bill suggested an Environmental insert into the Portager instead of just an article.

Meeting Adjourn: 8:27 pm

