

Environmental Board Meeting

December 12, 2012

Call to order: 7:02

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

Excused Absences: Marty Sepanik

Guests Present: Sarah Reding from the Kalamazoo Nature Center

Minutes: The board approves the Minutes as amended.

Eliason Nature Preserve: Sarah Redding gave a presentation regraded the proposed Eliason Nature Preserve. She gave information on what parts of the preserve will have trails and what areas already have existing trails through the preserve. The Eliason Nature preserve is considered a conifer swamp. The preserve was divided up into several sections and each section would have different management techniques because they all have specific properties related to them. Units 3C, 2C, 3B, and 2B is overwhelmed with invasive species.

- If the Environmental board wishes to work in the preserve next year, they can start to remove invasive species along Unit 4.

Pride Walks: Bill presented his board proposal on pridewalks in Portage.

Goal: Improve the curb appeal of the environment within the city of portage.

The pridewalks are not about just changing the environment, but also about changing the attitudes of the people walking around in this environment. The board would spread awareness, educate and estimate the costs/benefits of up keeping their sidewalk maintained. The board could do a pilot project in a small neighborhood to figure out the cost benefits for maintaining the sidewalks.

Waste Management: Luis presented his board proposal on waste management in portage.

Goal: To learn more about the city's waste management practices so improvements can be made.

The proposal is to develop an in depth understanding on how waste is managed in the city of portage. The board can interview city officials to get clear facts and gather information from the city's website. A report detailing this information will be written and then any recommendations could be made to the city council. A reasonable timeline for this project would be the end of Q1. In order to complete this proposal, the board would need one to two dedicated board members and time for the board to analyze the findings.

January: Ruth and Catherine will do their proposal on invasive education. Spencer will present his proposal on cutting energy costs in government buildings.

February proposals: Tim and Christin will be doing the proposal on invasive control. Raoul will present his ideas for a board website. Tim will present his proposal on land use planning.

- Raoul will use a video about red box disposal system for pharmaceuticals to advertise the EB for the 50th anniversary.

New Business

Purple Loosestrife: The picture of PLS will be replaced with nicer looking pictures to use for the PLS final report. The board moves the motion to approve the amended report.

Water Treatment Plant: The site was regarded Nov 16th and seeded around the 1st of December with native seeds. In the spring, the city will evaluate the success of the germination. Chris wants to establish some signage so people know what species are “Growing, not mowing.”

Meeting Adjourn: 8:39