

Environmental Board Minutes, April 9th, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Members Present: Ruth Caputo, Martha Dahlinger, Catherine Niessink, William Beck, Christin DeJong, David Mayfield

Excused Absences: Spencer Welling, Jamie McCarthy, Genevieve Sertic,

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting made by Bill, seconded by Martha. Motion passes.

Must approve the goals for the coming year tonight and then discuss the Greenathon/Garlic Mustard Pull for April 26th.

Goals/Objectives Letter to the City Council

Bill brings up the point that we may want to better define our goals with concrete things we want to reach.

Christin mentions that for what we send to the city council that being vaguer is okay.

Martha mentions that by not reaching our goals that may send negative connotations to the city council and mayor as well so we should keep that in mind.

We worked on the goals/objectives letter to city council for the coming year. Changed PLS releases number to 6-8. We added Martha's goal regarding the continuous maintenance of the native plantings around the water treatment plant. We may investigate updating the city's weed ordinance for the city council's consideration and considered adding language to better clarify the letter. We discussed the recycling goal and our plans/hopes regarding single stream recycling. We discussed the environmental assessment goal and whether to keep the word "threat" in it. The board also discussed exactly what we want to do with this goal in terms what are we looking for (invasive species, pollution, etc.), how are we doing this (just us, citizens, consultants?), and what exactly do we want to have accomplished by the end of the year. "Conduct an initial evaluation of environmental concerns for the City of Portage and report to city council" was added to our goals.

Next we worked on ordering our goals for the coming year by voting via secret ballot.

The order is as follows: Establish a program to control select invasive plants, Restoration of Eliason Reserve, Recycling Options, Environmental evaluation, water treatment plant maintenance, and Education on Invasive Species.

Goals Updates

Next week Thursday, April 17th at 8:30am Christin is walking through Eliason Reserve with Bill Deming.

Garlic Mustard Pulls

Martha and Catherine will be at the Greenathon on behalf of the Environmental Board.

David and Tim will be at Eliason Reserve for the garlic mustard pull from 9am to 12pm.

MDOT Trail Grant

Chris discussed the trail plans for the MDOT grant to connect Eliason Reserve to the existing bike paths. This trail will be paved.

Invasive Species Brochure

We should have these by the end of next week in time for the Greenathon and our first garlic mustard pull.

Phragmites Controlled Burn

Ruth has not heard from the group doing the burn in a while. The burn should be occurring sometime soon. The rest of the Phragmites in the area on private property will be covered up for the most part except the Phragmites in the regulated wetland on that private property. The City of Portage will send out a media release 72 hours in advance.

The Portage environmental board got a new sign to use for our displays at events such as Greenathon.

New Business

None

Announcements

The City of Portage did not receive the SAW grant but are probably in good standing for the next round of bids that will be released sometime in the future.

There was a motion to adjourn made by Catherine, seconded by Christin. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

/s/ Tim Winslow