

Environmental Board Minutes, January 13, 2016

Meeting Called to order at 7:05pm

Members Present: Chair Ruth Caputo, Vice Chair Martha Dahlinger, Catherine Niessink, Jamie McCarthy, Mike Sergeant, Jerry Kroehn, Bill Beck, David Mayfield, Tim Winslow, Assistant City Engineer Jamie Harmon

Excused Members: Student Advisory member Daniel Saba

Catherine mentions the minutes should be amended to include Jamie Harmon. Catherine makes a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Bill. Motion passes.

Old Business

Deer

We are fairly committed to having a public meeting. Ruth mentioned such a possibility at her meeting with the City Manager. Jamie brings up that it is expected that the board will host one. Chris is having an article published regarding the deer in next month's Portager. Christin has updated the survey to include some questions regarding damages and some other issues. We are thinking we'd advertise the deer town hall in March's Portager for a meeting in April. Mike brings up contacting our DNR person to make sure he has the time to do a survey in the next month so we have some data at this town hall. Martha brings up that people may not realize that any deer culling would take place on city property and not on private property. We would host the town hall forum at the City of Portage town hall in the city council chambers. We'll look at possible dates and Ruth will ask if the DNR person what dates he can make and if he could attend a meeting at night. We will need to figure out how to show our survey results at some point.

Mike can do a quick analysis of the data on a few slides and Ruth can put together some slides regarding why we are doing this. We will have data from three different sources in the Portage Police Department deer/car crash data, data from our survey, and hopefully data from the DNR's survey.

Invasive Plants Group

We met last week to decide what our requirements were for the coming year. We decided on three garlic mustard pulls encompassing West Lake, Schrier Park, and Bicentennial Trail. We will also attend the Greenathon and Fishing Fair and

maintaining the board at Lakeview Park. There are also three separate groups that are working on three separate goals regarding invasive plants as well. It is our objective to not have the work of these groups overlap.

The mapping group that will be working with the city will handle the issues surrounding Japanese Knotweed. Mike is still trying to get in contact with the city regarding when next we can convene this group. We'll have to decide at this meeting how committed the city is and we are to continuing to map invasive species. We need these groups to get started so that we can figure out which of these goals will be part of our goals and objectives for this coming year.

Single-Stream Recycling

Bill talked with both Ray Waurio and Steve Griffinius of Best Way and both said the program is far exceeding their expectations. The report from Republic for July-September 2015 was 78 tons per month on average and the report from October-December 2015 was 208 tons per month. The city recycled 248 tons per month in December. We aren't sure if we will need to do more work regarding this goal. The requests for new service has increased from 10-12 per month to 90 per month. The apartments have received some containers but not all have done so. The City of Kalamazoo has requested to meet with the City of Portage regarding this program. Bill and Tim plan to meet with the Portage school district to see how the program is going for them. The schools have requested that the demonstration carts be taken out actually so we are wondering why this is. Martha asks regarding the quality of recycling. Best Way does a yearly audit of a recycling load to see the nature of the load and how much is waste and what the quality of the recycling is. They do not do this on a consistent basis because they are so busy. They have mentioned there have been only five citations given out regarding recycling. Wet paper can be recycled although Best Way would prefer to get dry paper.

Goals and Objectives

At the moment, we feel we are committed to three garlic mustard pulls encompassing West Lake, Schrier Park, and Bicentennial Trail. We are committed to attending the Greenathon and Fishing Fair and maintaining the board at Lakeview Park. We are committed to the Beetle program regarding Purple Loosestrife and continuing to release beetles and monitor their progress. Right now we do not feel we are committed to anything regarding Phragmites. We are committed to hosting a public meeting regarding the deer problem. We are committed to understanding the nature of the deer issue. We are committed to supporting the volunteer groups and meeting their needs regarding their volunteer activities.

Bill brings up making sure we show to people how our goals all fit together. We'll need to explain this to people how our goals fit together. We need to do some type of situational assessment in order to figure out what our priorities are. We might need to add some goals regarding some other topics like the Asian Longhorn beetle, Japanese Knotweed, Oak Wilt, etc. This board has not ever released a statement regarding Emerald Ash Borer.

The city, Chris and Jamie specifically, are looking to see if there are some grants out there to help us with our goals and the city's goals as well.

The Portage Rotary has made time at their Wednesday, March 2nd meeting for us to talk to their group regarding invasive plants and what efforts we'd like them to help us with. This group is mainly young professionals. Their meetings are usually at noon.

The annual presentation that the environmental board gives to city council was supposed to be last night and we weren't informed that we needed to be there. We will be at the Tuesday, January 26th meeting to give our report.

Bill is still working on the display for the Lakeview Park display. He has been working with a company to create some pictures for this board. He wants to know if \$70 is too much to spend on that display.

Bill made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Tim. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

/s/ Tim Winslow