

## **Environmental Board Minutes, December 13, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Members Present: Chair William Beck, Martha Dahlinger, William Strong, Deirdre Courtney, Dave Solberg, Jerry Kroehn, Assistant City Engineer Jamie Harmon, and Secretary Tim Winslow.

Excused Members: Brian Harrison (potential new member), Student Advisory Member Owen Gwyn

Guests: None.

Jerry made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Deirdre. Motion passes.

### **Project Team Updates**

Bill met with Jerry and Martha regarding the resident education plan for the land management plan. They decided that it was important to focus on residents including the schools, businesses, organizations, and the government as well. They are going to focus on these four groups. The group will focus on educating these other groups on the following areas: environmental pollutants, invasive species and native species balance, impervious surface impact on water systems, air quality, water quality, and population density/sustainable growth.

The Land Management Support Plan team and Martha Dahlinger met with Kathleen Hoyle and Sarah Reding regarding the Kalamazoo Nature Center's progress regarding the land management plan on December 5th. The team just wanted an update on the project in general and to see where the Kalamazoo Nature Center was in their plan. The KNC has already started surveying and inventorying the parks regarding what invasive species were present and where. The KNC hopes to have a fairly good draft of their plan in early summer of 2018.

David asks if they hinted at what they would be prioritizing when they come out with this land management plan. Deirdre and Bill S. mentioned that it seemed like they would be prioritizing the West Lake, Bishop's Bog, Eliason, and Schrier Park corridor. They also would be providing the Environmental Board a preview of the plan around April 2018 probably as well so we could provide input.

Martha mentions that she has some past plans and cost estimates regarding invasive species removal in the parks. Bill mentions that she should put some of this material up on the Google Drive for all of the Environmental Board to see.

Jamie mentions that Kathleen would like to not only see this land management plan developed but also that it is actually used and that the recommendations are followed in the end. David mentions that knowing these recommendations as soon as possible would help us greatly. It would be good for the board to start preparing the City Council and City in general regarding what resources these projects will take.

Next Tuesday, December 19th Bill will providing the Environmental Board's update to the City Council. It would be good if a few environmental board members attended this meeting. There will be three new city council members as well at this meeting that will not know what the board is undertaking. So this will be an important meeting for us to attend.

Jerry asks if the land management plan will consider the invasive species on land owned by the City that is not part of the parks. Bill answers that at this time the land management plan will not be considering these properties but that in the end this plan will probably influence the city how they address other City-owned properties as well.

Bill mentions that we will also have two new members on the Board in January as well hopefully.

The board will also want to look at potentially putting more articles in the Portager if the space is available. Martha plans to write one up after she does some research. Jamie can look at the past articles that Kathy wrote for us and see if some of these articles can still be used. These articles are also on our Google Drive.

### **New Projects**

We decided as a board who would be on what teams. Martha, Bill Strong, and Dave will be on the Stream/Natural Shoreline project team. Tim, Deirdre, and Jerry will be on the Business Incentives to Make More Environmentally Friendly Decisions project team. The board broke up into these teams for the remainder of the meeting to start working on these goals.

Each team worked on creating their project impact statements for their teams.

### **Announcements**

Martha mentions that the potential sale of part or all of the Gourdneck State Game Area should continue to be on our radar just in case it happens at some point.

Bill S. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David. Motion passes.

/s/ Tim Winslow