

Environmental Board Minutes, January 11th, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:59pm

Members Present: Chair Bill Beck, Vice Chair Michael Sergeant, Secretary Tim Winslow, Martha Dahlinger, Jerry Kroehn, Deirdre Nieves, Kathy Fiebig, David Solberg, and Assistant City Engineer Jamie Harmon.

Guest: Jessika Maas

Excused Members: None

The minutes were approved over email before the meeting.

Bridget Bell, BCK CISMA, Invasive Outreach Educator for Kalamazoo County

Bridget Bell, Kalamazoo County Conservation District Officer (IOE) of the Barry, Calhoun, and Kalamazoo County CISMA, is attending our meeting to discuss what she does and how she can work with us more on invasive species. The BCK CISMA grant is housed with the Kalamazoo Nature Center and Ryan Koziatek is the coordinator of the BCK CISMA. They are trying to educate everyone on invasives, they've setup a priority list of invasives, they have formed a strike team to help treat some invasives for the summer months, and have done some other things as well.

Project Team Updates

We need to get a brief impact statement to the city council and city manager of some things each subcommittee would like to accomplish for the 2017 year.

Bill wants the impact statement to be twenty-five words or less basically. We need to tell the City what we want them to do if they are not doing it.

Both subcommittees gave an update on their progress regarding their impact statement. Both subcommittees need to work on crafting their statements in the next week to give to Jamie so she can share with Larry. Both subcommittees will work on this over the next week and finalize their statements.

These statements are meant to catch the attention of city council and the city manager so they know to keep a placeholder for these line items. We do not want them to allocate all of their money without thinking of these goals.

Bill would like us to include in our proposals who is responsible for carrying out these goals. This can be the residents, the City, the board, a specific person or department within the City, etc. This is something the subcommittees need to do in developing their proposals.

The city council retreat is on January 23rd, 2017.

City of Portage Website Capabilities & Limitations

Larry had a meeting with Bill and wanted to work on expanding the media outreach of the environmental board and what it is doing. Larry Shaffer, Jamie Harmon, Chris Barnes, and Devin Mackinder were present at this meeting. The bottom line is the City wants the Environmental Board to reach out to Portage residents more regarding environmental issues to help build a "greater sense of community."

The city currently uses Dropbox and they will research some other options and let us know what would work best for the environmental board's collaborations.

The city is currently developing "MI.Portage" app to engage citizenry. They are also developing extensions of the City website possibly into the world of Facebook and other mediums for public education and engagement of environmental issues.

Next Month's Agenda for February 2017 Environmental Board Meeting

Mike will be chairing the meeting next month.

Bill would like us to spend some time on the secondary project priorities that we would begin in May or June.

He would also like the board to invite Devin to come to our next meeting and discuss some file-sharing applications we could use and also some of the outreach opportunities available to the board.

We will also discuss the process for how the board will submit articles to The Portager.

The project teams may meet for some time to work on their proposals.

The board may also have some decisions regarding outreach and educational projects

Kathy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm