

Environmental Board Minutes March 8th, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:59pm.

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

Special Guest: Jessika Maas, Kalamazoo Valley Community College student

Excused Members: David Solberg

We will be getting a new student advisory member in the future as well as a new environmental board member.

Devin Mackinder's Presentation

Martha went through each of Devin's recommendations that he gave to the Portage Environmental Board at our last meeting.

Option #1 was putting an insert into the Portager or monthly articles into the Portager itself. It would cost \$1k for an insert within the Portager concerning environmental issues. The board might have to raise funds on its own to pay for this option. We can also submit monthly articles to the Portager but there is no guarantee that those articles will be published.

Option #2 was to utilize the City's and Portage Environmental Board's website better to publicize our events and issues that we want to bring to the attention to the citizens. This would include putting an icon on the City's website for people to click on to volunteer for the City.

Option #3 was using SeeClickFix for people to submit environmental-themed issues to the City. The issue would go to the City and they might ask the Board who in the City should handle this issue. The City has to respond within 24 hours so they might seek insight from us eventually on the issue. This could be a way to get better feedback from our citizens.

Option #4 was using a Facebook page for the Portage Environmental Board. This would require almost daily updates from someone on the board. This would be a more labor-intensive effort, and we would really need a dedicate person to post on this page often.

Option #5 was using public service announcements to better broadcast what the Portage Environmental Board is working on and events we are hosting. There might be opportunities to use video equipment at no cost as well to make an educational video and possibly the radio as well to broadcast events.

Option #6 was hosting or co-sponsoring environmental themed events. The board already attends the Greenathon and Fishing Fair and usually hosts a few invasive plant pulls. The board could possibly host another event and these events do not necessarily need to be city-sponsored.

The board discussed the options. The board voted to follow options #1 and #2 as their outreach and to consider this as a secondary goal.

Secondary Goals

Another possible secondary goal the board may go after in the second half of 2017 is the misallocation of resources. We may also consider putting together a community calendar of environmental-themed events. These are both secondary goals the board may consider in the future. At our next meeting, we will choose our secondary goals.

Minutes Approval

We discussed approving the minutes immediately after the meeting and getting those up sooner. We do have to approve the minutes at an official meeting though since this approval involves making a decision. We will discuss at future meetings how to handle the minutes.

Mike made the motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Jerry. Motion passes.

Announcements

Martha gave an update on the BCK CISMA. They are working on an icon for their group. The next meeting will be in Hastings more than likely.

Setting the Agenda

The board set the agenda for the next meeting.

The Invasives subcommittee will work on a recommendation regarding the future of the native planting and its maintenance.

Mike makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathy. Motion passes.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:20pm.

/s/ Tim Winslow