

Minutes of the
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2015
Lake House 6:30 P.M.

Present: Bill Gross, Rita George, Bob Haas, Erica Larson, Amy Nasr, Ray Nowak, Christine Raymond, and Mike Sweeney, citizen members.

Lisa Wagoner (Lubrizol), Eric Gehrke (Applied Specialties), Scott Cameron (NRG), and Steve Hartman (PolyOne), industry members.

Also in attendance: Public Works Director Joe Reitz and Council Representative John Shondel.

Absent: Matt Mesaros (Ford) industry member. *Holly Kowalski resigned on 1/7/15.*

Ms. Larson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Excused Absence Review: Mrs. Nasr made a motion to accept the absences of Board members on December 3, 2014. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sweeney. All yes. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Gross made a motion to approve the minutes from December 3, 2014. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wagoner. All yes. Motion passed.

City Administration Update: Public Works Director Reitz reported that Water Fest at Miller Road Park is scheduled for August 22, 2015 and assistance will be needed from the EAAB. Mr. Reitz will provide updates for the event as the planning progresses.

Industry Updates:

Applied Specialties – No report.

Lubrizol – No report.

PolyOne – No report.

NRG – No report.

Council/Environmental Committee Update: Mr. Shondel reported on the following:

- The 2015 Budget was approved. The budget for the EAAB is \$1,620. Last year the budget was \$2,163. Based on the needs of the EAAB, the budgeted amount was reduced.
- The figures for the deer carcasses collected by the Public Works Department were distributed to the Board. The figures are as follows:

2011 - 32
2012 - 48
2013 - 89
2014 - 105

The figures from the Police Department for deer/accident reports filed were as follows:

2008 - 18
2009 - 25
2010 - 29
2011 - 33
2012 - 21
2013 - 26
2014 - 25, with one personal injury

Motion: Mr. Sweeney made a motion that the EAAB affirms support of the city's efforts in the deer management program to reduce the herd.

Discussion:

Mr. Sweeney reiterated that the city should focus on the end goal of the deer management program which was to thin the herd. The legislation passed was very good; however, for many people taking advantage of the program is out of their reach. They would have to have a hunting license, take a safety course, have archery equipment, some expertise, a tree stand, and their property needs to pass inspection by the police department. It would be helpful to inform residents that there is a list of people who are trained and are willing to remove deer from their property. If that is advertised, it would provide residents interested in applying for the deer damage permit with other options. Also, culling should take place on city property and the city should look into sharp shooters. Sharp shooters are the most effective and very costly. Perhaps the city could budget a reasonable amount per year until the numbers are reduced.

Mrs. Nasr proposed that an article be written to draw attention to the statistics and keep it in the public eye.

Mrs. Wagoner asked if the cause of death of the deer have been determined which could explain the number of deer collected versus accident reports. Mr. Reitz stated that the city does not analyze age, sex, or cause of death of the deer. It was noted that insurance companies do not require accident reports to file a claim in deer collisions.

In response to Mr. Hartman, Mr. Shondel stated he did not have numbers from any surrounding communities. He stated that the Department of Natural Resources appears to recognize that there is more of an urban/suburban deer problem as opposed to statewide numbers in the deer population. The deer population has shifted away from where they are aggressively hunted to where they are not hunted. On the agenda of the Environmental Committee, there will be discussion on methods of reporting the story, culling city property, and efforts to reach out to the Metro Parks. He noted that seven residents applied to ODNR for deer damage control permits. Two were granted. Of the two granted, one removed two deer and the other one removed one.

Mr. Gross stated that the city needs to advertise the growth of the herd and to keep residents informed of how successful the program is when utilized.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Haas. All yes. Motion passed.

In response to Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Reitz stated that the cost to pick up deer carcasses varies depending on when a call is received. If it is after hours, two employees will receive four hours of overtime for a cost of \$500. The cost is significantly reduced when calls are received during work hours. Employees may need to leave a job site to retrieve a carcass.

Investigative/Fact Finding Groups

PIPE/Storm Water – Mr. Sweeney reported that this committee will meet in January and will provide an update at the next meeting.

HHW/Recycling – Ms. Larson reported that she completed an article and will provide copies to the other members of this committee for their review and input.

Health Study – Mr. Haas reported that a meeting will be scheduled.

Energy Efficiency – Mrs. Nasr reported that a meeting will be scheduled.

Old Business

Keep America Beautiful – Mrs. George reported that the next meeting of this Board will be in February and plans will begin for Pride Day. In response to Mr. Sweeney, Mrs. George stated she received 74 pledge cards from residents in Avon Lake who pledged their commitment to recycle.

New Business

Calendar Review – Ms. Larson inquired if there were any changes to the calendar. Mr. Reitz informed the Board that Big Trucks will be held September 19th.

Winter Social – Mr. Sweeney contacted Parkers on Walker Road. The Board can have access to their party room at a cost of \$15/person. After obtaining proposed dates from the Board, Mr. Sweeney will make final arrangements.

Subcommittees – Ms. Larson stated that this item was placed on the agenda to inquire if anyone would like to change groups or add another group. Mrs. Nasr responded that she previously suggested the possibility that the Board undertake the issue of climate change and city preparedness. Mr. Sweeney suggested an ad hoc committee be formed to discuss various topics on this matter for presentation to the Board. Mrs. Nasr, Mr. Sweeney, and Ms. Larson agreed to form this ad hoc committee and will meet for further discussion.

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Announcement – Mr. Shondel announced that the annual ward meetings have been scheduled. They are as follows:

Ward I	February 4 th at 7 p.m. Learwood Middle School
Ward II	February 11 th at 7 p.m. Learwood Middle School
Ward III	February 25 th at 7 p.m. Troy Intermediate School
Ward IV	March 4 th at 7 p.m. Troy Intermediate School

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

Valerie E. Rosmarin, Clerk