



Minutes of the
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
Lake House 6:30 P.M.

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

I. Roll Call & Quorum

Present: Rita George, Erica Larson, Erin McDevitt-Frantz, Marty Patton, Christine Raymond, Melinda Rutledge, and Kip Sekulic, citizen members.

Mike McCormick (Applied Specialties), Scott Cameron (NRG), and Tom Sulzer (PolyOne), industry members.

Also in attendance: Council Representative John Shondel and Mayor Zilka.

Absent: Randy Bowling and Ray Nowak, citizen members; Ford Representative, and Lisa Spencer (Lubrizol), industry members.

II. Unfinished Business

a. **Absences**

Excused Absence Review: Ms. Rutledge made a motion to excuse the absences of Board members for the month of February 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCormick. All Board members voted yes. Motion passed.

b. **Meeting Minutes**

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Sulzer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the month February 2016. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Raymond. All Board members voted yes. Motion passed.

c. **Event – February 15th Planting an Urban Garden**

Chair Larson reported on the event that was held at the Avon Lake Public Library on February 15th. Dale Cracas from the Community Garden presented “Planting an Urban Garden.” Mr. Cracas requested the EAAB co-sponsor this event. The EAAB raffled garden tools and distributed other EAAB items and literature to all in attendance. The event was well received. Mr. Cracas would like to partner with the EAAB at future events.

III. Reports from Committees/Groups

a. City Council and the Environmental Committee

Mr. Shondel reported on the following:

- The State of Ohio requires any public health agency to apply for accreditation by 2018 and to become fully accredited by 2020. Since 1974, Avon Lake has received public health services from the City of Lorain. Lorain will no longer provide these services to Avon Lake due to financial constraints. Therefore, Lorain will join the Lorain County Public Health District. Some of the services the health district provides include assistance in natural disasters, minimum health services for the indigent, maternity care, newborn care, preventative health services, restaurant inspections, school water testing, inspections of city pools, mosquito control, etc. The services provided by the City of Lorain will expire July 2016. Avon Lake can join the Lorain County Health District or establish a health agency. It is cost effective for the City of Avon Lake to join the district rather than establish an agency. Currently, all cities that have joined the Lorain County Health District pay a one mill tax levy. If Lorain, Elyria, and Avon Lake join, the tax levy will be reduced to a half of mill, which is approximately \$15 per \$100,000 valuation. The average valuation in Avon Lake is \$215,000-\$220,000. If Avon Lake joins the district, residents will incur a small tax; however, the scope and quality of health services will be expanded. City Council will consider legislation authorizing Avon Lake to join the district.
- The next meeting of the Environmental Committee is March 9th. The following items will be discussed: the conversion of a city vehicle to bi-fuel capability; deer/auto accidents for the month of January and February (which total one); update of culling program/deer management year - 190 deer removed through culling, deer damage control permits, deer/auto accidents, and deer carcass pickups; and removal of invasive species known as phragmites.
- The Environmental Committee will recommend City Council authorize the City of Avon Lake to join LEAP – Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership.

b. City Administration - NONE

c. Industry Updates

Applied Specialties – Mr. McCormick reported that Applied Specialties is considering expansion projects in the summer or late fall. On March 1st, Applied Specialties submitted the emergency response report to the Avon Lake Fire Department along with providing hazardous waste reports to the EPA.

NRG – Mr. Cameron reported on the construction projects at the facility. NRG will be back on line June 1st. Due to the increase number of contractors using the cross walk in front of the plant,

there have been some near vehicle and pedestrian collisions. To address this situation, NRG has conducted safety meetings.

d. Research/Investigate Groups

- PIPE – none.
- Waste & Recycling – Ms. Rutledge reported on the brochure she drafted.
- Health Study – Chair Larson reported that this group has not selected a topic to address in a brochure and asked for input from the Board. After various topics were identified, the group will conduct further research.
- Energy Efficiency – Mrs. Raymond reported that the group discussed brochure content and will finalize it soon.
- By-Laws and Chapter 274 – Chair Larson reported that a subcommittee was formed to review the By-Laws and Chapter 274. The subcommittee proposed changes to both. Recently, Chapter 274 was amended by City Council regarding membership. A copy of the By-Laws and Chapter 274 was distributed to the Board.

Mr. McCormick reviewed the proposed amendments to the By-Laws which consisted of membership, meeting time, officers, staff support, and duties of the members.

Chair Larson proposed a change to Chapter 274 regarding the purpose and duties of the Board.

After discussion, the Board was directed to review the proposed changes before final approval.

IV. New Business

a. Lorain County Pride Day

Chair Larson reported that Lorain County Pride Day is May 21st which is part of the Keep America Beautiful initiative. The Board discussed past cleanup projects and proposed locations to clean.

b. Leave No Trace

Chair Larson reported that she would like to schedule “Leave No Trace.” This event would be sponsored by the Board. Twenty-four people will be trained on how to enjoy nature without leaving a trace. After discussing possible dates, Chair Larson will schedule the event on a Saturday in June.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

Valerie E. Rosmarin, Clerk