



Minutes of the  
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, June 1, 2016  
Lake House 6:30 P.M.

Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

I. Roll Call & Quorum

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

Mike McCormick (Applied Specialties), Mike Mesaros (Ford), and Lisa Spencer), industry members.

**Also in attendance:** Council Representative John Shondel, Public Works Director Reitz, and Mayor Zilka.

**Absent:** Ray Nowak, citizen members; Tom Sulzer (PolyOne) and Scott Cameron (NRG).

II. Unfinished Business

a. **Absences**

**Excused Absence Review:** Chair Larson made a motion to excuse the absences of Board members for May 4, 2016. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Rutledge. All Board members voted yes. Motion passed.

b. **Meeting Minutes**

**Approval of Minutes:** Chair Larson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for May 4, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Raymond. All Board members voted yes. Motion passed.

c. **Pride Day Garlic Mustard Pull**

Chair Larson reported that seven volunteers participated in the garlic mustard pull at Kopf Reservation and collected 17 trash bags worth of the invasive species. The Sun News stopped by and wrote an article about the event. ALCTV videotaped and interviewed Chair Larson and used the footage in a compilation video about Pride Day events which occurred throughout Avon Lake.

Chair Larson informed the Board that she created a Facebook page for the EAAB.

### III. Reports from Committees/Groups

#### a. City Council and the Environmental Committee

Mr. Shondel reported on the following:

Deer - The culling year is from April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. During that time period, the Public Works Department picked up 85 deer carcasses and 99 deer were culled (61 through ODNR sharp shooters and 38 through residents who applied for deer damage control permits). The Environmental Committee will meet with Bay Village, the Lorain County Metro parks, and the Department of Wildlife to plan for the 2016/2017 year.

The total number of deer removed from the city is the following: 2016 – 184, 2015- 138, 2013 – 85, 2012 – 5, and 2011 – 39. Based on those numbers, it appears that the City is making progress in decreasing the deer population.

A deer survey began in May and will conclude on June 15<sup>th</sup>. As of this date, over 850 responses have been received.

The Public Works Department has picked up 13 deer carcasses for the year compared to 18 in 2015. The Police Department had two reported deer/auto accidents compared to 6 in 2015.

Invasive Species – In July the City will begin removal of the invasive species known as phragmites.

#### b. City Administration

Public Works Director Reitz reported on the following:

Invasive Species – A list of properties with phragmites was provided to Lyn Ickes from Lorain County Community Development. Ms. Ickes is the coordinator for the Invasive Species Remedial Project. The City applied for a grant for the remedial project. If awarded, the City will receive the grant in July. Thereafter, Public Works Director Reitz will seek permission from private property owners to remove phragmites, in addition to remediating City owned property. The City of Avon will also participate with Avon Lake at locations where both cities have properties near each other. The Avon Lake Fire Department will burn all phragmites removed. It is hoped that more private property owners will hear of the project and join in.

Mayor Zilka reported that the ALCTV in conjunction with the Public Works Department and the Recreation Department is using a drone to video tape the parks. The Mayor

suggested that a video be prepared documenting the before and after effects of the phragmites program.

Public Works Director Reitz informed the Board that ALCTV will air a new program he recorded which highlights some of the projects the City has implemented regarding the maintenance of retention basins, storm drains, and the sewer systems.

In response to Mr. Wyrock, Public Works Director Reitz stated that the largest group of phragmites is located on the back portion of the property of Aherns Catering on Rt. 83. Also, they are found near retention basins in residential areas and some businesses on Pin Oak Parkway. The largest group on City owned property is located at the Sewer Treatment Plant.

### **c. Industry Updates**

Applied Specialties – None.

Ford – None.

Lubrizol – None.

NRG – None.

PolyOne – None.

### **d. Research/Investigative Groups**

PIPE – Public Works Director Reitz reported that the Lorain County PIPE theme for 2016 is “Lorain County Starts Here.” A storm drain stenciling program will be completed across the county.

A rain barrel workshop will be conducted in July at the Avon Lake Public Library.

Waste & Recycling – No report.

Health Study – Chair Larson reported that Ray Nowak resigned from the Board. Mr. Nowak was chair of this subcommittee. Marty Patton agreed to be the new chair.

Energy Efficiency – Mrs. Raymond reported that this group is finalizing their brochure content.

Mr. Sekulic addressed the Board on the Ohio energy mandate and efficiency law which was passed in 2008 and frozen in 2014. If nothing happens, it will go back into effect in 2017. There are some in the Ohio legislature who seek to freeze it permanently. Cleveland City Council passed a resolution urging the State House, Senate, and Governor

to reinstate it. Mr. Sekulic wondered if Avon Lake's Council would consider passing a resolution similar to Cleveland's.

Mr. Shondel suggested that Mr. Sekulic bring this issue before the Environmental Committee for their consideration. If the Environmental Committee is in agreement, then it will be recommended to City Council.

#### IV. New Business

##### **a. Event Season**

Chair Larson reviewed the upcoming events and distributed volunteer signup sheets. In regards to the Water Fest, the Board discussed the raffle contest and prizes.

#### V. Mexichem

Chair Larson reported that she received a message from a representative from Mexichem regarding potential involvement with the Board. She asked the Board members how Mexichem could assist the EAAB.

Mayor Zilka stated that he met with the representative and provided him with information regarding the Board. Mexichem's headquarters is in Mexico. All facilities have been directed to become involved in the communities where they are located.

Chair Larson stated that she will contact the representative.

#### VII. Summer Social

Chair Larson requested input from the Board on a summer social in August. Legacy was suggested as the location. She will contact Legacy to determine dates and prices.

**Motion:** Chair Larson made a motion that the EAAB will recess for the month of July and August. The motion was seconded by Mr. Patton. All yes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

Valerie E. Rosmarin, Clerk