



**Minutes of the  
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board  
Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 6:30 PM  
Location: Lake House**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Naumann announced that he was interviewed by Megan McSweeney from *West Life*, (a local publication comprised of the news of communities on the west side of Cleveland). In the article, Ms. McSweeney showcased the Environmental Affairs Advisory Board's mission, actions, and desire to increase community participation.

**Welcome/Attendance/Meeting Minutes**

Present: Sam Naumann, Jen Miller, and Rob Shahmir, citizen members.

Mike McCormick (Applied Specialties), Scott Cameron (Charah Solutions), and Ron Spears (Lubrizol), industry members.

Absent: Rita George, Kayla Goodwin, Marty Patton, Terry Robison, and Terry Wyrock, citizen members. Tom Sulzer (Avient™) and Michelle Hall (Ford), industry members. Councilwoman Billie Jo David.

Also in attendance: Councilman Mark Spaetzel

Quorum: *None.*

Industry Reports

- Applied Specialties – Mr. McCormick reported that Applied Specialties is currently reviewing their ESG (Environmental Social Governance) score.
- Charah Solutions (Charah) – Mr. Cameron reported that the precipitator for the large unit, closest to Miller Road Park, will be torn down within the next two weeks and core samples for Phase 2 will be collected next week.

In response to Mr. Shahmir, Mr. Cameron stated that the Phase 1 soil and groundwater sampling results were received but he has not seen them.

Chair Naumann asked if the Board can make a formal request for the results along with an update on Phase 2. In response to this inquiry, Mr. Cameron stated that he will forward the Board's request to Charah and asked that all questions be sent to him via email.

Mr. Cameron informed the Board that 700 tons of asbestos have been removed, which is approximately one-quarter of the asbestos at the plant. Also, abatements are 25% complete. An average of three to four trucks have been hauled to the landfill per week and starting next week the number of hauls will increase to 10 per week because the boilers will be removed. Mr. Cameron completed an environmental inspection at the plant to ensure that all ballasts, light bulbs, batteries in emergency exit signs, etc. are removed. The demolition has been west to east on the back road, and Charah is still deciding if the stacks and/or the Turbine Hall

will remain. No formal decision has been made on either. It is more expensive to save them than to conduct a full demolition.

Mr. Shahmir asked if there are any plans or activities proposed for the coastal line. Mr. Cameron stated that he was unaware of any plans but did see the Phase 2 sampling plans. The plans do not include going into the lake, and he wasn't certain if they will go into the lake for sampling or will keep the core sampling on the shore.

Mr. Cameron complimented the asbestos contractor that was hired. An outside company has conducted the required testing, and the EPA has inspected the project six times. Nothing has been found, and the EPA has been very thorough with its inspections.

Mr. Shahmir reported that he attended two recent CIC (Community Improvement Corporation) meetings. He questioned CIC's role in the redevelopment of the Power Plant, who their consultant is, and who is advising the City. On behalf of the Board, he has asked previously for information regarding Charah's plans and has been frustrated by the lack of or very little response from the City. He expressed concern that the City is not asking the type of questions it should be. The City has retained a lawyer who is a re-development specialist, and an environmental consultant should be the one to advise the CIC. He has not seen anyone with the technical knowledge to act on behalf of the City to ask the questions that will lead the efforts and resolve some of the questions the Board has presented. Charah has been unresponsive. The Board presented its concerns to City Council months ago and is still at a stalemate with Charah. Charah informed the Board that they do not intend to provide any of the requested information. Therefore, the Board has been ineffective, but it should be actively involved to ensure that the Power Plant is redeveloped with sustainability.

Mr. Spaetzel responded to Mr. Shahmir and explained that the CIC's role is the governmental aspect of the redevelopment, not the remediation portion. He confirmed that the City does not have an environmental representative for this process. However, the OEPA (Ohio Environmental Protection Agency) is involved. Todd Davis is the legal representative for the City regarding the remediation.

Chair Naumann stated that it is very hard for the Board to be effective when it does not have community involvement and he hoped to convey that message in the recent West Life article. Community involvement will provide credibility to the Board and acknowledges that the Board represents the residents. Board members must use their network resources to encourage residents to attend these meetings.

Mrs. Miller commented that the community is unaware that the Board needs their voice, which was one of the reasons the Board proposed an educational flyer on the Power Plant. Unfortunately, that flyer was not supported by the City.

Mr. Shahmir referred to the recent proposal by Rumpke Waste & Recycling to build a transfer station on Pin Oak Parkway. He stated that social media posts brought public awareness and objections which caused Rumpke to withdraw their application. It is not that difficult to get the residents moving toward a particular viewpoint. The Board wants Charah to succeed because it will benefit the City. The Administration and City Council must be aware of Charah's activities because they have a fiduciary responsibility to the community.

Mr. Spears stated that he has participated in remediation projects in other states but not in Ohio, and he did not understand why public meetings were not held, why work plans were not

reviewed, Quality Assurance, Quality Control plans were not reviewed, and other pertinent information shared in an open forum. The City or Board should not have to ask. After all, it should be forthcoming voluntarily because it is part of the regulatory process. Does the Board need to file FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests to gain the information requested?

In response to Mr. Spaetzel, Mr. Shahmir stated the Board has asked but no representative from the OEPA has met with the Board and no one from the City has contacted the OEPA. The request to meet has to come from the City. The Board can only recommend. If the City wants to hire an environmental specialist, the first step would be to meet with the OEPA. This is a commercial entity.

Chair Naumann recommended the Board formally ask Charah to present their current State remediation plan at the February meeting that could be held at the high school to accommodate the community. Mr. Cameron stated that he will forward the Board's request to Charah via email.

- Ford – Chair Naumann reported on an email received from Ford representative Michelle Hall, as follows: Ford has been removing trees during the allotted time required to not interfere with bat nesting and their breeding season. Ford is controlling soil erosion and leaving about 50% of the tree stumps. The OEPA has been investigating an ongoing odor complaint that they are attributing to the Ford Ohio Assembly Plant. This is the same complaint reported last year. The source is still unknown. Ford has provided the OEPA with the information they requested and is facilitating the investigation. The complaint is from a resident northeast of the plant, and it appears to be only when the wind is coming from the south or southeast. Ford will continue to be diligent to determine its source, and how it can be abated if the source is from the plant.

#### Residential Accountability

Mrs. Miller reported on the educational series offered by the Board in partnership with the Avon Lake Public Library. The first program, Environmentally Speaking: Recycling Right! will be held on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8 p.m. Fifteen have registered their attendance. The topic features the benefits of recycling, what items can be recycled, and how to properly recycle them. Representatives from the Lorain County Solid Waste Management and the Good Neighbor Thrift Shop will speak. The coach from the Avon Lake Girls Golf Team will attend this session to promote the team's efforts to collect used sneakers that will be shredded. This environmental recycling program is a fundraiser for the team. The next program partnered with the library is Environmentally Speaking: Thrifting and Repurposing Your Wardrobe will be held on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 7 to 8 p.m.

Mrs. Miller stated that Mr. Wyrock is organizing a program about the documentary, Erie Situation. It is hoped that the movie will be shown at the library followed by a panel asserting their point and counterpoint about the movie's message. The costs to air this movie still need to be determined along with having the contract reviewed by the Law Director. Mrs. Miller will contact Mrs. David for assistance.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

Valerie Rosmarin, Clerk