



**Minutes of the
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board
Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 6:30 PM
Location: Avon Lake Public Library, McMahan**

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

Welcome/Attendance/Meeting Minutes

Present: Rita George, Jen Miller, Sam Naumann, Rob Shahmir, and Terry Wyrock, citizen members.

Tom Sulzer (Avient™) and Scott Cameron (Charah Solutions), industry members.

Absent: Kayla Goodwin, Marty Patton, and Terry Robison, citizen members; and Mike McCormick (Applied Specialties), Michelle Hall (Ford), and Ron Spears (Lubrizol), industry members.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Cameron moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2023. Mrs. Miller seconded. All ayes. Motion approved.

Residential Accountability

1. Lorain County Beautiful Day

Chair Naumann stated that the third Saturday in May is the countywide cleanup day, also known as Lorain County Beautiful Day. The City of Avon Lake participates and promotes this event as Avon Lake Cleanup Day. The Board helped coordinate some of the activities, and he visited several locations that were being cleaned by volunteers from the Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club, Avon Lake Boat Club, Church of the Open Door, and the Kiwanis Club.

Mrs. George helped the Avon Lake Boat Club clean their club area around the Folger Home and stated that the Boat Club has participated in this cleanup day for many years and has a well-organized cleanup operation. They collected approximately 12 to 15 black garbage bags filled with leaves, debris, and trash. She noticed a youth group cleaning up the beach behind the Folger Home. She has spoken with the Boat Club Commander Ray Frank previously about supplying volunteers with single-use water bottles and requested that they stop this practice. She will continue to remind the members and recommended this should be a goal of the Board to encourage others to stop buying single-use plastic bottles because the recycling situation is precarious. She applauded Chair Naumann's actions when he brought a water cooler and cups to the cleanup site.

Mrs. Miller said that the water cooler was borrowed from Avon Lake Regional Water, and residents can pick up a cooler at their offices on Miller Road. She also stated that the youth group that cleaned up the beach was the MOSS Club, which is an environmental group formed by girls in the 5th and 6th grades at Troy Intermediate School. They would like to find other projects, and Mrs. Miller offered to do a podcast with them and suggested that they partner with the EAAB in the future.

2. Avon Lake Garden Plant Sale

Mr. Wyrock reported on the native plants that were distributed by the Board at the Avon-on-the-Lake plant sale. A few days before the event, he received a message from City employee Jeff Smith that some of the saplings arrived in poor condition and had to be thrown away. Fortunately, there were enough saplings to hand out to all who attended. Also, he assembled and distributed monarch kits that will help increase the caterpillar population and ultimately butterflies. He stated that the Board may want to consider a different giveaway next year because 200 saplings were distributed on Arbor Day by Board member and Tree Commission Chair Terry Robison and that could have impacted the turnout for this event.

3. Speaker Series

The next program partnered with the library is Environmentally Speaking: Our Drinking Water which will be held on Tuesday, June 14th from 7 to 8 p.m. Avon Lake Regional Water representatives will talk about the City's drinking water and answer any questions.

4. Rain Barrel

Chair Naumann explained to the guests at the meeting that former Public Works Director Joe Reitz conducted rain barrel workshops, and the Board is considering the possibility of restarting the program. In the meantime, if anyone is interested in receiving information on rain barrels, they should contact him.

Industrial Accountability

5. Industry Reports

- Avient™ – Mr. Sulzer reported that the City Fire Marshal was at their facility on June 5th to reinspect some discrepancies discovered at the last inspection in 2022. The issues were minor and consisted of installing exit signs, plates on the sprinkler systems, etc. All 17 buildings were checked and passed inspection.
- Charah – Mr. Cameron reported that the asbestos removal and abatement at the Power Plant will be finished in the next couple of weeks. All known asbestos has been identified. During the demolition, a trailer and crew will remain on site to remove any asbestos that is discovered. Approximately 2,600 tons of asbestos have been collected. Recently, the Northeast EPA District Director toured the plant. Also, the EPA asbestos inspection found no issues. All asbestos abatement was handled properly, and everything was tracked. The last section of the coal belt running across Lake Road was removed and the demolition of Precipitator Unit 9 was completed. The removal of the ductwork is ongoing. There have been multiple break-ins at the facility by individuals stealing copper, and recently a second robber was apprehended.

Mr. Shahmir asked if there will be any drilling of boreholes and will augers be used. In response, Mr. Cameron stated that he was informed that Charah will be starting to do more drilling and that the equipment used will be geotechnical rigs, but he is not involved in that phase of the project and is not aware of all the details.

Mr. Shahmir stated that when he attended a CIC (Community Improvement Corporation) meeting he asked that question to Mr. Deigan, who responded that hollow stem augers would be used

and they are drilling to refusal. When the auger cannot penetrate beyond the refusal, the drilling will stop, and wells installed. Based on that response, Mr. Shahmir asked Mr. Cameron if that is still the conceptual model or if it had changed since the last CIC meeting. In response, Mr. Cameron stated that he has not been part of that phase and cannot answer that question.

Mr. Shahmir asked how the dewatering pumps are maintained since the power has been turned off. In response, Mr. Cameron stated that the power was shut down around May 23rd and the treatment building has a separate line and is still powered up.

Mr. Shahmir asked about the foundation and the pumps that draw water and maintain the water level for operational reasons. In response, Mr. Cameron stated that generators are available to pump out water if needed.

Mr. Shahmir asked where the water that is being drawn from the sumps is going. In response, Mr. Cameron stated that the water is deposited into the horseshoe shaped pond on the property, and it is tested every week. He is required to monitor the PH, oil, grease, TSS (Total Suspended Solids), and copper the entire time that the water is discharged. On the other side, the same tests are conducted plus ultra-trace mercury is tested. Currently, they are in the process of permit renewal and the testing for PCBs is not a permit requirement. He is not aware of any additional sampling that will be conducted, and that question should be directed to the CIC.

Mr. Shahmir reported that City Council approved the hiring of an environmental consultant three weeks ago, and he requested the environmental consultant attend this meeting (which did not occur) to interface with the Board before the summer holiday. Also, the hiring of a law firm that will serve as a rezoning consultant was hired for the City which will be funded by ALERG (Avon Lake Environmental Redevelopment Group) was approved.

6. Summer Recess

Chair Naumann stated that he will contact all members of the Board via email to discuss whether they would like to continue meeting this summer or take a recess for the months of July and August.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Valerie E. Rosmarin

Valerie Rosmarin, Clerk

After the meeting concluded, Mr. Shahmir presented a PowerPoint on the Power Plant that was previously shown at a CIC meeting.