

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

## *May 18, 2005 - Meeting Minutes* City Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Community Room

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**Members Present:** James Jeakle, Mike McCarville, Todd Kesselring and Tom Hohm

**Approved Absence:** Ted Lupina

**Staff:** Carolyn Rutland, Staff Liaison and Dick Skalski, Senior Civil Engineer

**Others:** Commissioner Don Cooney and Bill Steinmann

Dick Skalski presented an update on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, complete with recent maps and drawings of existing and planned trails. He also described current and future grant funding for the project and gave an estimated timetable for approved and funded segments of the bike trails. The discussion included information about bicycles in City traffic.

**APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF: March 16, 2005:**

- The minutes were approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

- Interview and approval of new member applicant added under New Business.
- The agenda was approved as modified.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- New Plant Sale, May 21, 2005 at the Nature Center.
- Earth Day, May 21, 2005 in Bronson Park, featuring a Fair Trade program.
- Woods Lake Cleanup – seeking volunteers.

**COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:**

- Commissioner Cooney had no comments.

**COMMENTS BY ECC MEMBERS:**

- Tom Hohm gave a brief update on the aftermath of his aunt's murder in Brazil. The U.S State Department has been good about communicating with the family. The information comes from the American Embassy in Brazil. The family is considering asking the City of Kalamazoo for permission to plant a tree as a gesture in recognition of Tom's aunt's contributions to rainforest preservation.

**COMMENTS BY OTHERS:**

- None

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### OLD BUSINESS:

- None

### NEW BUSINESS:

- New Member Applicant Interview and Approval – Bill Steinmann’s application for ECC membership was reviewed by all members present. Steinmann’s professional experience as an environmental consultant was discussed. Mike McCarville moved that Bill Steinmann be recommended to the City Commission for membership on the ECC; seconded by Tom Hohm. The motion was approved.

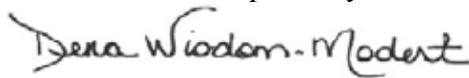
### SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Planning Commission** – Tom Hohm reported on the May 5, 2005 meeting. Staff presented plans for the Marketplace in Washington Square. The roads are constructed and the land is ready. The plan was approved by the Planning Commission and now goes to the City Commission. The zoning ordinance was presented by the City’s consultant. The revision includes a wellhead protection overlay, lighting standards, landscaping requirements, among other items. There was a discussion regarding whether or not Site Plan Review should be part of the Zoning Ordinance; staff recommended that SPR not be in the ordinance, as it is a policy or procedure. The City is considering restricting billboards featuring moving pictures.
- **Asylum Lake** – Todd Kesselring reported more information on monitoring well removal at Asylum Lake. Duane Hampton from the WMU Geosciences Department brought a proposal to pay students to properly abandon monitoring wells with Kalamazoo Foundation funds for Asylum Lake. The Committee approved. Others funds were approved for landscaping tasks previously performed by WMU. The Committee is hoping to develop a management plan for such expenditures, instead of dealing with them piecemeal.
- **Tree Committee** – Ted Lupina reported via e-mail that the Tree Committee met May 5, 2005. The committee approved the tree removal (84 trees) on West Michigan Avenue between Howard and Drake. Many of these trees are neither desirable species nor in good shape. The removal is in preparation for the widening of West Michigan to five lanes. The City is still involved with land purchase for the street widening as there is currently insufficient right-of-way. The City will replant 40 trees in locations at the discretion of the project manager. Some of these will be on private property. This project has been reviewed and accepted by the Arcadia Neighborhood Association.

### ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Transcribed and respectfully submitted,



Environmental Services Accounts Coordinator/Secretary  
Department of Public Services  
Harrison Street Facility