

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

## *March 15, 2006 - Meeting Minutes*

4:30 p.m. - City Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Community Room

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**Members Present:** James Jeakle, Tom Hohm, Bill Steinmann, Ted Lupina, and Bill Hughes

**Approved Absence:** Becky Paterson

**Staff:** Carolyn Rutland

**Others:** Commissioner David Anderson

**APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF: February 15, 2006:** Minutes were corrected as follows: Members Present – delete one listing of Tom Hohm. January 18, 2006 Meeting Minutes corrections – change “Masik” to “Mesic.” The minutes were approved as corrected.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Agenda was approved as submitted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:** None

**COMMENTS BY ECC MEMBERS:** Ted Lupina mentioned the Public Notice in the Kalamazoo Gazette of up to eight-hours of potentially excess fluoride in some drinking water. Members expressed an interest in learning more about how the City measures fluoride in drinking water, how it is identified, how an excess is prevented and corrected. There was some discussion of the effectiveness of fluoride in drinking water and its risks.

**COMMENTS BY OTHERS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** Environmental Building Standards – After a brief review of handouts of information about environmental building standards in other communities, the committee discussed recommending to the City Commission that the City of Kalamazoo develop a sustainable building policy and that the ECC be tasked to draft it. Such a policy could potentially affect City-subsidized affordable housing and the Consolidated Public Safety Station. Jim Jeakle offered to ask Jeff Chamberlain for a staff contact in the Community Planning and Development Department. The policy adopted by Seattle, Washington, is an example of what the City of Kalamazoo could do. It was moved and approved that Jeakle would draft a letter to the City Commission requesting that the ECC be asked to draft a sustainable building policy. The draft letter will include asking that appropriated City staff review other existing municipal policies and recommendations.

Alternative Fuels/Biodiesel – The ECC decided to keep this topic under “OLD BUSINESS” on all 2006 meeting agendas and revisit the subject periodically.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** David Anderson reported that the Parks and Recreation Department is doing an evaluation of City-owned “park” land. It is possible that some unused parcels be sold. Does the ECC want to comment on this? The committee agreed that it needs to ensure it is represented on the Parks and Recreation Board (PRAB) and will determine a volunteer via email before the April meeting.

Anderson also mentioned the possibility of a “Bike to Work Day,” whose goal would be to make the City more bike-friendly. Perhaps the City would be encouraged to make available more places where a bike can be locked up. Will the new downtown theater complex have good places for bikes to be locked? Are there bike racks at the Public Safety stations? What is the status of the City’s plans for street bike lanes? Dick Skalski, staff contact for the City’s non-motorized plan, will be invited to return to update the ECC.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Planning Commission – Tom Hohm reported that at the March 6 meeting the Ruggers Up and Under proposed design was refused because it does not meet the City's Downtown Design Guidelines.

Asylum Lake – Bill Steinmann reported that the committee is hoping to have a Baseline Environmental Study performed on the lake. It has reviewed a proposal from Kieser & Associates and may decide to seek additional proposals. There will be a prescribed burn of the prairie this spring at a date to be determined. Reminder: All dogs must be on a leash, per City ordinance.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned.

Transcribed and respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dena Wisdom-Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

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