

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

March 21, 2007 – Meeting Minutes

4:30 P.M. – City Hall - 2nd Floor – Community Room

Members Present: James Jeakle, Tom J. Hohm; Colleen Prichard; Michele Richards; Bill Hughes; Bill Steinmann; Travis G. Meier

Approved Absence: Ted Lupina; Casey Gershon

Staff: Bruce Merchant (Director, Public Services Department); Carolyn Rutland (Staff Liaison; Environmental Services Division)

Others: Commissioner David Anderson; Connie Ferguson; David Nesins; Sara Wick; Kay M. Chase, Mike Johnson

APPROVAL OF February 21, 2007 MEETING MINUTES: Under OLD BUSINESS/Fluoride, 9th sentence – Change to “Field testing is not required to be reported to the regulatory agencies. Under NEW BUSINESS/US Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement, 1st and 10th sentence – Add “Commissioner” at beginning of sentence. 7th sentence – Add “had” between “it” and “considered.” 10th sentence – add before the semicolon “(as is the US Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement). 11th sentence – Add “2007” to date. 12th sentence – Change “Michelle” to “Michele.” Change commas to semicolons between phrases. Add “can” to last phrase between “consensus” and “be.”

It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as changed; the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Delete “New Member Interview.” Under NEW BUSINESS – Add “Traffic Impact Study for Arboretum.”

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be approved as modified; the motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Biodiesel – WMU chemistry professor involved in this project has offered to visit the ECC when the project is up and running. Staff have offered to provide tours of the Water Reclamation Plant and the Central Wellfield facility for the ECC. A tour of the Schippers Crossing site can also be arranged. Rob Bauckham (Assistant City Planner/Site Plan Review Coordinator) asked the Rave Theater owner to install bike racks and received a willing response.

COMMENTS BY OTHERS: Skipped.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Well Head Protection -- Jim Jeakle reported that the draft Well Head Protection Overlay and Site Plan Review Performance Standards /Appendix A of the City’s Code of

Ordinances has been provided to the ECC for review. Carolyn Rutland will distribute by email.

Planning Commission – Tom Hohm reported that at the March 1, 2007 meeting the Commission considered rezoning of the homes located west of the southwest corner of Whites Road and Westnedge Avenue (current location of Damon’s Restaurant) as part of redevelopment of that corner. Reed Youngs is a new member of the Planning Commission.

John Paquin (Water Resources Supervisor) sent word that the Well Head Protection Overlay and Site Plan Review Performance Standards will likely be on the April Planning Commission agenda and will then be forwarded to the City Commission.

Asylum Lake – The ECC seat on the committee is up for re-appointment. It was moved and seconded that Bill Steinmann continue as the ECC representative. The motion passed. A prairie burn is planned for the late afternoon of March 20, 2007. On March 31 and April 1, 2007 the Peace Jam conservation event will be held at Asylum Lake.

Kay Chase provided information that the Battle Creek Mayor will be signing the US Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement publicly on April 14, 2007.

OLD BUSINESS: Site Plan Review Performance Standards and Wellhead Protection Overlay – see announcement above. Pet Waste – Copies of the draft ordinance were distributed for review. US Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement – The revised response prepared by Michele Richards was edited. It was moved and seconded that the response be sent to the Mayor and City Commission. The ECC response to the Mayor’s request regarding the US Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement is attached to these minutes. WRP Tour – Email Carolyn Rutland if interested. Schippers Crossing – Marty Myers (Public Safety) will attend the April ECC meeting to talk about the planned Public Safety Training Center.

NEW BUSINESS: Kalamazoo River Superfund Site – Bruce Merchant provided a history of the Kalamazoo River Superfund Site and described recent developments. The City’s concerns include the following: The site will have no liner. Potential impacts to groundwater (staff are reviewing data just provided by MDEQ Groundwater Division). The EPA has been receptive to the City’s questions, but insists that the current plan is appropriate. Michigan senators are helping coordinate City meetings with EPA staff. Gary Wager of the neighborhood associations association is sending a letter to the EPA. The Oakwood Neighborhood sent a letter March 20, 2007. The Westnedge Hills Neighborhood sent a letter March 20, 2007. The Edison Neighborhood Association meets March 22, 2007 and will consider sending a letter. The ECC could help the City evaluate groundwater/drinking water issues. Kay Chase asked for clarification of the clay liner impermeability and TSCA requirements and about analytical data from the monitoring wells on the site. The City is also questioning the integrity of the clay and whether there are contaminants of concern in addition to PCBs. The EPA has said that heavy metals would concern them; however, they have no reason to believe heavy metals are a problem at the site. The Remedial Investigation of the Allied Paper Site may possibly be available after May 1, 2007. Connie Ferguson asked about possibilities for economic development of the site and expressed concern about the possible 40-foot

increase in elevation. Jim Jeakle suggested that John Paquin be asked to talk to the ECC about protection of the City's Central well field from PCBs and other contaminants. The 12th Street Landfill is not owned by Allied Paper/Millennium Holdings. Residents have concerns about air monitoring and frustrations about what an ordinary person can do to object to the plan. Tom Hohm asked about alternatives to landfilling; Bill Steinmann responded that incineration is an option for PCB destruction, but it is costly and yields something more toxic. It was moved and seconded to send a statement to the Mayor and City Commission; Bill Hughes and Michele Richards will provide a draft to be finalized by email consensus. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS: ECC Response to the Mayor's request regarding the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Statement to the Mayor and City Commission regarding the Allied Paper Site.