

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

June 15, 2016 **DRAFT** MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Timmons, Olga Button, Paul Manstrom, Margy Belchak, Lauri Holmes, Alex Moldonado, Nora Gimpel

STAFF: John Paquin, Staff Liaison; Amy Thomas, Recording Secretary

1. ROLL CALL (Excused Absences): Matt Fletcher, Chris Wahmhoff, Philip Dietrich

- Mr. Timmons advised that a quorum of members was not present at 4:30 p.m. and no official action could be taken at that time. The members who were present proceeded with the following discussion:
- Mr. Timmons stated that Mr. Ide is not available to attend the ECC meetings because of his work schedule. He was agreeable with having an associate membership.
- Mr. Timmons spoke with Mr. Glasser (ECC applicant), who inquired if there was a more equitable meeting time? The members who were present were not in favor of changing the meeting time. Mr. Timmons suggested offering Mr. Glasser an associate membership.
- 4:35 – Ms. Belchak arrived and a quorum of members was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (May 18, 2016):

There were no changes to the minutes.

Ms. Holmes, supported by Mr. Manstrom, moved approval of the May 18, 2016 ECC minutes as submitted. There were no objections from the board.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

Mr. Manstrom, supported by Ms. Button, moved approval of the June 15, 2016 ECC agenda as submitted.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Ms. Holmes provided information regarding the upcoming celebration at Asylum Lake. She will be out of town on July 19th and she inquired if someone from the ECC would volunteer to go to this event. Mr. Timmons stated that he would attend if he didn't have a conflict.
- Ms. Gimpel announced that there will be a COP 21 party in the back room of Bell's Brewery on September 13th from 4 to 8 p.m. to educate people on how COP 21 affects us locally and to discuss the Paris treaties on climate. This will be a fundraiser for the Climate Change Coalition. Organizations will have booths set up to share information. There will be speakers from WMU to discuss the local impact of COP 21. They are looking for an event name and currently considering "Think global drink local".
- Mr. Paquin advised that Rebekah Kik is willing to give the ECC an update in July regarding the Master Plan process. He will add that to the agenda.
- Mr. Gimpel stated that June 16th is national Dump-the-Pump Day. The Climate Change Coalition will have a booth at the Family Fit Fest in Bronson Park. They will be partnering with Rebekah Kik, the City of Kalamazoo and Metro Transit to talk about the work that is going on locally with climate change and why dump the pump day is pertinent to the community. Free Metro bus tickets will be offered. Check the City of Kalamazoo website for more details.

5. NON-AGENDA COMMENTS BY OTHERS: None

6. OLD BUSINESS: None

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Kalamazoo River issues (KRCC, KRWC, Allied, etc.) – no report.

Kalamazoo Environmental Council –

- Mr. Manstrom stated that he did not attend the last meeting; he was not sure if this group met. He will check with Don Brown to find out if they are meeting.

Portage Environmental Board – no report.

City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission

- Mr. Manstrom stated that he attended the last Planning Commission meeting. On the agenda was a request from Kalamazoo College to rezone the Hall House. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request, which will be on the City Commission agenda for a first reading/review at the meeting next week.
- Greg Milliken was recently appointed as a Planning Commissioner. He is a former Oshtemo Township Planner. He currently works for Bronson Hospital and is a City resident.
- An update on the Master Plan was provided at the last Planning Commission meeting.

Tree Committee - no report.

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council

- Ms. Holmes stated that the current plan will be unveiled on June 20th at the Oshtemo Township Hall at 5:30 p.m. The representative advised that the planners and developers are listening to the concerns expressed. They would like to use the old base of the water tower as a gathering spot. They want to blend the 100-foot margin between Drake Rd. and the developed park with the preserve. There is concern that supervision of the property will go to the condo association.
- Mr. Timmons commented that he was pleased with the plan so far. The truck entry is not on Drake Rd.
- Mr. Holmes mentioned that the pile of debris at the north end of orchard property was removed.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

- Ms. Button attended the open house at Woods Lake. The beach has shrunk to a very small size. It is tiered with large rocks so it is not very welcoming. There is a walk path that leads to the water and there is a wooden deck that overlooks the lake. However, the view is limited and fishing is prohibited. The Mayor and News 3 were at the open house.

Wellhead Protection Committee

- Mr. Paquin stated that there was a meeting on May 26th to review the existing grant projects and select a project for the next grant fiscal year, which starts October 1st. He submitted the grant proposal, which was due on June 15th. The \$70,000 grant should take care of projects that are planned for that program, which includes updating of some of the ground water modeling, doing follow-up public surveys and continuing with the education campaign for water resources protection, including ads at movies, radio ads and bus placards.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

New Member Application Received.

- The application was provided to the board for review. Mr. Timmons will invite the applicant to the next ECC meeting.
- Mr. Timmons suggested offering an associate membership to Mr. Glasser since he is unable to attend the meetings.
- **Ms. Belchak, supported by Ms. Button, moved to offer an associate membership to Mr. Glasser. There were no objections from the board.**

Tour of Wastewater Treatment Plant -

- Bob Cochran provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the wastewater treatment plant and answered questions from the ECC members. Mr. Cochran was not able to conduct a tour of the plant due to time constraints. It was suggested that the ECC members could return for a tour at a later date.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Belchak, supported by Mr. Manstrom, moved to adjourn the June 15, 2016 ECC meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Staff Liaison

DRAFT