



Environment Board

Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center Room 2404

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
PRESENT:**

Cherie LeBlanc Fisher, Jerri Garl, Tom Klitzkie, Chris Kucharczyk, Wendy Pollock, Michelle Redfield, Caroline Peyer, David Kornhauser, Melanie West and Mark A. van der Meulen

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
ABSENT:**

Ben Kaplan

STAFF PRESENT:

Leslie Perez, Administrative Lead, Kumar Jensen, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Brittanie Giroux, AmeriCorps Fellow

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

C. Leblanc Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and a quorum was established

2. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES: MEMBERS PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY OR BY TELEPHONE.

C. Kucharzyck motioned for the suspension of the rules. W. Pollock seconded. All approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July Minutes:

W. Pollock motioned to accept the minutes as amended. J. Garl seconded. All approved.

August Minutes:

W. Pollock motioned to accept the minutes as amended. J. Garl seconded. All approved.

5. STAFF REPORTS

A. Franchise Agreement Negotiations with ComEd

K. Jensen explained that the City has had 5-year agreements with ComEd since 2010, which allow ComEd to maintain/operate equipment in Evanston while the City receives

unbilled municipal electricity usage (through a fee that residents pay). The City has opted to receive the previously unbilled electricity as a cash payment instead, which gives the City the ability to buy this electricity on the open market, likely receiving a better price. City Council voted in August to allow the ComEd agreement to expire, because of a lack of cooperation around CARP goals and the revelations around the bribery scandal. This will not impact electricity service.

B. Community Choice Electricity Aggregation

K. Jensen discussed the City's Community Choice Electricity Aggregation Program, which is an opt-out program that allows the City to buy electricity at a cheaper price through supplier choice. A major change in the Program will allow companies to provide a price-match to ComEd, while still purchasing 100% renewable energy, providing revenue to the City to buy renewable energy credits and focus on community energy programs. If approved by City Council through ordinance, an RFP will be issued for the Program, which will be established with this major change before the expiration of the Program in June 2021.

C. Municipal Electric Supply

K. Jensen discussed the City's Municipal Electric Supply Program, which includes approximately 130 electricity accounts - the vast majority of which have been consolidated into a single purchase. This consolidation allows the City to focus electricity purchasing towards 100% renewable energy, historically done through renewable energy credits. Later in the year, the City will issue a virtual power purchase agreement RFP, mainly for solar power producers, to develop a cost-estimate for a large-scale solar array.

D. Brittanie Giroux Fellowship Wrap up Presentation

B. Giroux provided a video and PowerPoint presentation of her work with the City of Evanston and her time with AmeriCorps.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Develop List of Questions for Michael Callahan (City Arborist)

W. Pollock outlined how the primary focus of questions for M. Callahan will be on CARP implementation. The Board discussed asking about current tree losses, incentivizing tree watering by residents, performance metric updates in CARP, and zero waste goals. W. Pollock will submit questions to M. Callahan in advance so he can prepare answers.

B. City Budget Priorities Discussion

W. Pollock explained that the City's 2021 budgeting process has begun and encouraged EEB participation in this process. W. Pollock asked for any cost-saving suggestions for CARP implementation work. J. Garl and K. Jensen discussed the understanding by City Councillors of cost-saving externalities made by ecological and environmental work.

C. Natural Areas Ordinance Update

K. Jensen provided an update on the Natural Areas Ordinance. Public Works Agency has concerns with one provision in the Ordinance that has to do with the designation of a Natural

Areas Officer. The Ordinance is planned for introduction to the Planning & Development Committee of City Council.

D. Environmental Justice Resolution Update

J. Garl discussed how the Environmental Justice Resolution is currently on the consent agenda for City Council, after a long process of development.

7. TASK FORCE/SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

8. ADJOURNMENT

C. Kucharczyk moved to adjourn the meeting, M. Van der Meulen seconded. C. LeBlanc Fisher adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

A. Next Meeting: October 8, 2020