

**Charter Township of Orion**  
Oakland County Michigan

**Environmental Resource Committee Minutes**

Regular Meeting, Thursday, November 2, 2017  
Orion Center 7:00PM

1. **Call to order** by the Chair 7:03 pm
2. **Roll Call:** Present: George Hanley, Corinna Womack, Mike Flood, Austin Edwards, Matthew Menghini, Kristen Schweitzer, Jessie Richmond. Absent (with notice): Rodney Tocco, Mike Deluca, Harold Flood. Guest: Arely Zimmerman.
3. **Determination of a quorum:** yes
4. **Public comments:** none
5. **Regular order of business**
  - a. **Approval of minutes:** Hanley requested the minutes be amended to state that Mike Deluca made the motion to approve the October agenda. M. Flood requested his committee comment regarding the medical marijuana ordinance be changed to clarify that a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading is scheduled for the November 6 board meeting. Richmond moved to accept the October 5 minutes as amended; seconded by Womack; motion carried.
  - b. **Approval of agenda:** M. Flood requested an additional agenda point to present a report on trash haulers. M. Flood moved to approve the agenda for the November 2 meeting as amended; Menghini seconded; motion carried.
  - c. **Pending Business:**
    - i. **Reusable bag logo design contest** – Womack recently reached out to Kathy Klein at Waste Management via email to confirm that they will sponsor the contest and provide the bags, and is waiting for a response. Although the details of the contest are not finalized, the target date to announce the winner is planned on or around Earth Day / Green-up Orion 2018. Richmond shared some information about two programs for environmental recognition that might tie in with the Committee's awareness efforts. The Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program was created by MDEQ to encourage and reward communities, businesses and their neighbors who work together locally on projects to improve environmental awareness and the quality of life in their communities. Michigan Green Communities is a statewide network of local government and university staff that hold an annual program called the Michigan Green Communities (MGC) Challenge. The MGC Challenge serves as a guide to help communities measure their progress towards sustainability. Richmond also shared information about MDEQ Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Grants. Grant projects must focus on achieving measurable reductions in waste, have a local or regional focus, and result in long-term

environmental improvements. The request for proposals is closed for 2017 but may align with committee efforts in 2018.

- ii. **Green Business award process report** – Supervisor Barnett approved the award program. Hanley is still concerned that the parameters for the award are too vague. Flood requested a matrix be created with points awarded for different environmentally-friendly activities. Nominees would be scored and the highest score would win the award for that period. Womack agreed to work with Deluca to define criteria. Flood recommended this be sent to Supervisor Barnett, and he can decide if it needs to go before the BoT. Hanley suggested we change the name to the Green-Up Award but no motion was made.
- iii. **Social media contributions** – the topic was tabled until the December meeting due to Deluca's absence.
- iv. **Composting** – Edwards shared a presentation on food waste highlighting the fact that 40% of food produced is wasted. The EPA created a hierarchy pyramid suggesting what can be done to reduce the waste.
  - 1. Source reduction (only produce what is needed)
  - 2. Feed hungry people
  - 3. Feed animals
  - 4. Industrial use (such as recycling greases and fats)
  - 5. Composting
  - 6. Landfill

Edwards prepared a list of potential food waste producers in our area (grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals, schools) and suggested the committee conduct a survey to see if any local producers are already engaged in waste reduction activities, or if they would be interested in learning more. The committee discussed some composting benchmarks including a community program in Kenosha, WI and a local consultant, Detroit Dirt, as well as some of the benefits that could be shared with the community, such as using the compost on community gardens. Edwards will contact local food waste recyclers and food waste haulers to research their parameters for logistics and disposal. Once he has the information, he will prepare a business case including an implementation timeline for the BoT, to see if this is something they would like us to pursue.

d. **New Business** - none

e. **Reports**

- i. NO HAZ – M. Flood attended the No-HAZ county meeting this morning. The annual poster contest will be held for the 2018 season. Information will go out in November to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades in the county. All collections are finished for the year. The last collection was in Lake Orion at Wildwood with 1168 vehicles coming through. This is the 2nd highest volume for this year's events (after the OU collection). It took 60-90 minutes for vehicles to get through the line due to the cramped location. Traffic control on Joslyn Road as well as the entrance to Joslyn Court, is handled by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. Once vehicles enter Joslyn Court (from north bound Joslyn Road only) all interior traffic control and flow is maintained and monitored by the NO HAZ event volunteers. The recycling vendor organizes the process flow for the drop offs. Alternate locations have

been proposed, but the area needs to be able to handle a high volume of cars and the equipment has to be in place for a minimum of three days (including setup and tear down). The next event in Lake Orion is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2018 at Wildwood Amphitheater. A few other communities have expressed interest in joining the No-HAZ consortium, but none are confirmed. This would reduce costs for member communities.

- ii. Phragmites – Hanley met with Jeff Stout to review the Phragmites activity and presented a brief wrap-up for the year. Eighteen sites were treated.
- iii. Trash Hauler Update – M. Flood reported that Smith's Disposal was taken over by Advanced Disposal, so we are down to four trash haulers in the township. There is a list on the Orion Township website, by clicking on the Clerk's Office banner.

**6. Committee Comments –**

- a. Schweitzer – Asked if Christmas tree recycling was still done. (Yes, at Orion Oaks Park)
- b. Hanley – Spoke with Aaron Whatley regarding the Committee's discussion last month on improvements that could be made to the forage grant application in 2018 for the Feed-A-Bee program, and Whatley was in concurrence.
- c. Richmond – Requested that the 2018 meeting schedule be put on the agenda for next month. Once the schedule is approved, M. Flood will reserve meeting space at the Orion Center.

- 7. Adjournment:** M. Flood moved to adjourn at 8:38 pm, seconded by Menghini; motion carried.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 7, 2017  
7:00 pm - Orion Center  
Lower Level Arts & Crafts Room