

Charter Township of Orion
Oakland County Michigan

Environmental Resource Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 4, 2018
Orion Center 7:00PM

1. **Call to order** by the Chair 7:07 pm
2. **Roll Call:**
Present: George Hanley, Mike Deluca, Corinna Womack, Matthew Menghini, Jessie Richmond. Absent (with notice): Kristen Schweitzer, Mike Flood, Harold Flood. Absent (without notice): Rodney Tocco, Austin Edwards
Guest: Kathy Klein, Waste Management
3. **Determination of a quorum:** yes
4. **Public comments:** Kathy Klein announced the annual "Recreate Art" contest at Orion Art Center will be held on April 19, 2018.
5. **Special topic: Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC)**, presented by Kathy Klein of Waste Management. The MRC's mission is to raise awareness about the value of recycling to Michigan's economy and environment. Waste Management is a member of the MRC and the Governor's Recycling Council (GRC), which was formed to advise the Department of Environmental Quality and Governor Snyder on specific actionable steps Michigan could take to achieve the goals outlined in the Governor's Recycling Plan of Action. Their target is to double Michigan's recycling rate from 15% to 30%. While the GRC reviews local, state and administrative policies to look for opportunities to increase recycling, a parallel group called the Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel (SWSAP) will review Part 115, Solid Waste regulations, looking for ways to improve sustainable materials management. These groups have come up with proposed Rule changes, new policy recommendations; methods of increasing access and development of a recycling measurement system. Klein provided both printed material and several web links to the committee members with more detail on these activities, and spoke about various grass roots efforts in the area that have brought about real change. Committee members and the general public can find more information on the [Michigan Recycles](#) or [Michigan.gov](#) websites, and are asked to make recommendations to the Township in support of the programs.
6. **Regular order of business**
 - a. **Approval of minutes:** Menghini moved to accept the December 7 minutes as presented; seconded by Deluca; motion carried.
 - b. **Approval of agenda:** Richmond moved to approve the agenda for the January 4 meeting as presented; seconded by Womack; motion carried.
 - c. **Pending Business:**
 - i. **Composting** –Klein provided information on the challenges for community composting. (e.g. pests, potential health issues, lack of transporters, higher costs due to the need for more manpower, possible surcharges, etc.) and explained the need for separate streams of yard waste, food waste and animal waste. She also provided some reference material from the Ohio EPA. The committee recommends we table any further activities to establish community composting until members have had a chance to research the topic and become better informed.
 - ii. **Reusable bag logo design contest** – Klein confirmed that Waste Management will donate 600 reusable bags to the Orion Township library this year, delivered in increments of 200 bags in January,

May and September. She provided a sample bag to the committee. The January shipment has already been delivered to the library. If the committee wants to incorporate the Orion Township logo on the bags in May or September, then Waste Management will provide a quote for the printing costs. They require a 6-week lead in, which will conflict with our contest timeline. Deluca reached out to several LOHS employees regarding the logo design contest. He has received feedback only from one art teacher at the high school, who would like to delay announcing the contest in order to incorporate the activity into the curriculum. Hanley would prefer to move up our timeline so the bags are available for handing out on Earth Day in conjunction with the annual Green-up Orion activities. He will contact M&B printing to see what it would cost to have the logo added to the bags that are currently with the library. Open topics also include ensuring the library agrees to let the committee distribute these bags and how to roll out the logo contest in a timely manner.

- iii. **Green Business award status**– The nomination form has been approved and is available at the township offices and on their website. The Township published this information on their Facebook page and Richmond shared it with the Lake Orion Chat Room Facebook group. Deluca has not received any feedback from the Chamber of Commerce, nor have we received any nominations to date.

7. **New Business** – none.

8. **Reports** - none.

9. **Committee Comments** –

- a. Hanley – Remarked that we still have not received any nominations for student committee members. Also, he will speak with Harold Flood to confirm if he wants to continue as an alternate member since he is out of town for extended periods of time.
- b. Menghini – Saddened to hear that Hollywood Markets is closing at the end of the month.
- c. Richmond – Emailed Chris Barnett, OT Supervisor, and Aaron Whatley, OT Parks Director this week to share information about the State's NEP & MGC programs. She is waiting for feedback from them to move forward with the NEP application to recognize community outreach via the Green-up Orion program.

10. **Adjournment:** Deluca moved to adjourn at 8:34 pm, seconded by Womack; motion carried.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 1, 2018

7:00 PM

Orion Center, Arts & Crafts Room