

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board
19 July 2017
Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 19 July 2017 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were, Susan MiHalo, Kristine Sandrick, Sue Adams, Doug Cannon, Chelsea Overholt, and John Morris.

Kristine moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 17 May 2017. Sue seconded. The motion carried.

Sue addressed the Dark Skies work group, which changed its name to the Lighting Task Force at the last meeting. The flyer asking residents for input regarding streetlights that may or may not be necessary went out with the water bills. A meeting with Indiana American Water revealed a good deal of misunderstanding. They offered only minimal changes, clearly not understanding lighting principles. In Sue's reply, she asked them to recognize the proximity of the water filtration plant to Long Lake. She asked, at minimum, to consider changing out the lights at the gate. In the exchange with NIPSCO, after a letter from Tim Nelson, they promised a meeting, but then reneged. Instead, in an email, NIPSCO suggested the town buy their own. They followed the recommendation of their expert, Larry Kramer of Purdue, which runs counter to the AMA recommendation. Another letter was sent stressing the problem of glare with the hills in town, how this affects elderly residents, and the ambiance we are trying to preserve. This went out on the 17th and an email promptly came back to arrange a meeting. Susan suggested that the NIPSCO environmental staff, Don Babcock, should attend that meeting. Regarding media attention, the *NWI Times* had an article generally in favor of the LEDs. Kristine mentioned talking to a *Post-Tribune* reporter, Javonte Anderson, who writes about environmental issues. He could be a spokesman in favor of lower power lighting. Sue mentioned that Michigan City is considering buying their own lights to use lower power. Larry Sylvestri, of the Michigan City Redevelopment organization, an amateur astronomer, and a member of the national Dark Skies Initiative, has nominated the National Lakeshore to be formally designated Under the DSI. Save the Dunes is in favor, as is Paul Labovitz of NPS, and Don Babcock. Sylvestri has also asked the Porter County Commissioners to update their light resolution to include the AMA report regarding LEDs above 3000K. He said that Michigan City is considering purchasing their own lights between 2700 to 3000K. He also wants to discuss the DSI nomination for the Park at the August meeting. He also wants a letter of support from Ogden Dunes to IDA. Susan will draft one for Tim.

Sue is scheduled to talk to the Prime Timers in August. This is an opportunity for education to show that safety is enhanced when light is directed where it is needed.

Sue also learned after the dark skies meeting that Fredrik Albritton teaches at University of Chicago in environmental history, and has students who need field work. They could be used for work at Long Lake Marsh. Kristine also mentioned she knows someone with the license to spray the phragmites, who might volunteer. It was noted that tree of heaven is spreading in the marsh.

Kristine also noted that Purdue Extension Landscaping is having a seminar about rainscaping, all day with lunch, 30-31 August at Meadowbrook Conservation Center and Preserve, Valparaiso. Register at edustore.purdue.edu by 9 August. \$70 registration.

The beach cleanup will be 16 September. Chelsea is taking the lead. No training is scheduled, but this has been done here often. Contacts will be made with families on the event on 12 August.

Beach monitoring is proceeding. No closings or cautions have been needed.

There is nothing new on MS4 exemption.

Fines for littering are still only \$25. It was suggested to the code review committee that they be increased to the level in state law concerning littering near public waterways of \$2000.

Doug said he would contact Jenny Brown again about replacing the recycling information on the web site with his new brochure.

John reviewed the permits for nearby industries. All but Arcelor Mittal have been renewed recently.

Kristine moved to adjourn and Chelsea seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.