

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of November 18, 2009
Minutes

Present: Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Joshua Fine, Gabor Grunstein, Michael Rosenberg, Kristen Ross, Karen Swaine, Allan Williams

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM in the Environmental Education Center. Karen Swaine is now a member of the Environmental Commission.
2. The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. No correspondence
4. Site plan review

- a. 331 Lincoln LLC
31 Lincoln Ave.
Block 173 Lot 58

Proposed modifications limited to interior of building. No comments.

- b. Broadway Verona LLC
318 Cleveland Avenue
Block 109 Lots 34, 35, and 36

Applicant proposes to utilize an existing warehouse building (zoned for professional offices) for administrative offices and a training school for Heat and Frost Insulators Union. Modifications limited to interior only. No comments.

- c. Kenneth Blatt
103 North 8th Avenue
Block 132 Lot 40

Applicant proposes to construct a 2 ½ story addition to an existing single family home. A deck will be added and a garage removed. No comments.

5. Old Business

- a. Zoning of Highland Park Meadows – Schectel Planners is working with the Master Plan Advisory Review Committee to prepare the reexamination report for the Highland Park Master Plan. Most of our recommendations have been accepted, but

the future of the Upper Meadows parcel is still under discussion and may be considered for required affordable housing.

- b. Environmental Education Center – No news since last meeting. Waiting to hear about pre-application submitted by the Borough to qualify for a \$300,000 grant from EPA that would include solar panels for the EEC. The Borough also signed a \$40,000 contract with CME for additional investigative work regarding the soil contamination issue.
 - c. Meadows Project – 650 hours of volunteer labor were expended this year. Most of the 276 new plants that were purchased are now in the ground with the last few to be planted shortly. The boardwalk is now complete, and is made of four 12-foot sections for a total of 48 feet in length. More wood chips were spread along the trail. In the spring, cut down invasive trees. Seeking a grant for an additional \$10,000 in 2010 to remove surface concrete with a backhoe. There are a couple of Eagle Scout projects that are being planned for the Meadows. They include construction of benches along the trail, additional signage, birdhouses and bat houses.
 - d. Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Mary Denver has obtained wildlife habitat certification for the Irving School site. The Mirror newspaper had a nice article about the project.
6. New Business
- a. The Highland Park Conservative Temple conducted a cleanup of River Road on November 8.
 - b. Mike Rosenberg presented some information about Habitat for Humanity and the ReStore Program for recycling of building supplies and home furnishings.
 - c. We should plan a meeting off all Highland Park environmental groups sometime in early 2010.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday December 16, 2009 at 8:00 PM.