

Evanston's Future!

Monthly Electronic Newsletter of

*Evanston's Energy Future
Evanston's Transportation Future
Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle
Evanston's Affordable Housing Future
Citizens Lighthouse Community Land Trust
Food Committee*

January 2006

Network for Evanston's Future groups welcome new members, at any time and at any level of interest or participation.

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Committee Updates

Calendar

- January 3, 7 p.m.** **Citizen's Lighthouse Community Land Trust**
Location: Evanston Civic Center, Rm 2404
Contact: Ester Betty Sue, akjyskb@ameritech.net
847-858-2071
- January 5, 7 – 9 p.m.** **Evanston Food Policy Council (formerly Food Committee)**
Location: Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge
Contact: Debbie Hillman, 847-328-7175 or
Catherine Buntin, 847-251-8057
- January 8, 3 – 5 p.m.** **Network for Evanston's Future**
Location: Friends Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf, Evanston
Contact: Steve Perkins, steve@cnt.org
- January 17, 7:30 – 9:30pm** **Evanston's Energy Future**
Location: Café Mud, 1936 Maple Ave., Evanston
Contact: Joel Freeman, JSF@grummanbutkus.com
847-869-0955

Calendar

- January 18, 6:30 – 8 p.m.** **Film: The Next Industrial Revolution (documentary film)**
Location: Evanston Ecology Ctr., 2024 McCormick
RSVP: Ecology Ctr., 847-448-8256
Film discusses the work and vision of architect William McDonough and chemist Dr. Michael Braungart for designing and building green and sustainable working and living environments.
- January 19, 7:30 – 9:30 pm** **Evanston's Transportation Future**
Location: TBD
Contact: Richard Martin, rmartin101@comcast.net
- January 23** **Support for Citizen's Lighthouse Community Land Trust**
See CLCLT update for background information.
Time and Location: Contact Ester Betty Sue, akjyskb@ameritech.net
847-858-2071
- January 24, 7p.m.** **Final Stages of Development for City of Evanston Strategic Plan**
Location: Auditorium of Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge Avenue
Contact: City Manager's Office, (847) 866-2936
- February 2, 7 – 9 p.m.** **Evanston Food Policy Council**
Location: Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge
Contact: Debbie Hillman, 847-328-7175
Catherine Buntin, 847-251-8057
- February 7, 7 p.m.** **Citizen's Lighthouse Community Land Trust**
Location: Evanston Civic Center, Rm 2404
Contact: Betty Sue Ester, akjyskb@ameritech.net
847-858-2071
- February 12, 3 – 5 p.m.** **Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle**
Location: Friends Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf, Evanston
Contact: Steve Perkins, steve@cnt.org
- February 15, 7:30 p.m.** **Film: Future of Food**
Location: Evanston Main Public Library, 1703 Orrington
Admission: Free
A documentary on genetically modified foods, corporate power, and agriculture. Sponsored by Evanston Food Policy Council and REELTime. A discussion will take place following the film.
- February 16, 7:30 – 9:30pm** **Evanston's Energy Future (rescheduled date)**
Location: Café Mud, 1936 Maple Ave., Evanston
Contact: Joel Freeman, JSF@grummanbutkus.com
847-869-0955

Network Member Updates

Evanston's Affordable Housing Future

(Submitted by: Sue Carlson)

A revised draft outline of an Inclusionary Housing ordinance was presented by City Manager Julia Carroll to the Planning and Development Committee of the City Council in November. The Committee discussed it briefly at their December meeting, but there was insufficient time for a thorough discussion. A special meeting of the Committee devoted to this proposal has been called for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 5 at the Civic Center.

The Evanston Review recently highlighted this proposal and noted the remarkable statement Jonathan Perman, Executive Director of the Evanston Chamber of Commerce, made to the Committee, a strong statement of support, especially of the inclusionary aspect which was not fully present in the proposal.

The Housing Commission, as well as EAHF, have advocated strongly for a strengthened proposal. Initial comments of the aldermen were mixed, but many were strongly supportive.

This follows on the heels of a Demolition Tax ordinance which passed unanimously in the Council in November. It stipulates a \$10,000 fee for those developers who are speculating in Evanston's housing market by tearing down some of the more modest homes in the city. Evanston residents who choose to tear down their own homes, then live in the rebuilt house for at least three years will be exempt from the fee, as will any developer who builds a replacement home sold for under \$500,000. As specified in the ordinance, the monies raised by this fee will become part of the Mayor's Special Housing Fund. While this fee is not expected to raise enormous sums of money (over the last 2 years, there were 11 teardowns), it does give notice to speculative developers that Evanston values its more modest homes and that they owe the city something extra for removing them from the housing stock.

EAHF encourages NEF members to participate in the hearing on January 5 and to advocate for strengthening the proposal in the following ways:

- The proposed term of affordability needs to be increased beyond 15 years to at least 30 years.
- Developers should be required to include a minimum of 10% *on-site* affordable units.
- A sliding scale up to 15% affordable units should be provided for larger developments.
- Rental housing should be considered in any Inclusionary Housing ordinance. We suggest one way of providing for this is by allowing a proportion of the affordable units to be purchased by one of the Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) which could then rent out the unit at an affordable rate.

We expect there will be time following the actual introduction of the proposed ordinance for contacting aldermen with your comments. Please watch for this opportunity.

Citizen's Lighthouse Community Land Trust (CLCLT)

(Submitted by: Betty Sue Ester)

The CLCLT will go before the Housing Commission on January 19, 2006 to make a recommendation that a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) status be granted to the CLCLT.

If the Housing Commission gives and supports the recommendation, it is anticipated the request for CHDO will go to the Planning and Development Committee and City Council at their January 23, 2006 meeting.

CLCLT encourages the support of Network for Evanston Future's readers by attending the January 23rd meeting. Please contact Ester for further details at Ester Betty Sue, akjyskb@ameritech.net or call 847-858-2071

Evanston Food Policy Council (formerly Food Committee)

(Submitted by Debbie Hillman)

The Food Committee has an official name -- Evanston Food Policy Council.

Mission Statement: *Evanston Food Policy Council is a citizens group working to ensure everyone's access to a safe and diverse regional food supply and to foster awareness of healthy food choices. We advocate sustainable agricultural policies, support organic growing practices, and promote active urban-rural connections through our local food system.*

Evanston's Transportation Future

(Submitted by: Richard Martin)

The Transportation group discussed the following issues at their December meeting:

- Pedestrian issues including snow removal and its numerous challenges.
- A study that is being recommended to bring about something similar to the successful "Ride DuPage" program in which there is coordination of a number of service providers.
- Follow up discussion with regard to a report and outcome of a November 30th meeting with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee (See December NEF Newsletter).
- The planned Yellow Line stop at Oakton in Skokie.
- The Strategic Planning Process with the City of Evanston.
- Possible coordination with the local Bicycle advocacy organization, and perhaps a joint meeting.
- A proposal, being promoted by Center for Neighborhood Technology, to expand the curriculum for drivers' education to include public transportation.

Evanston's Energy Future

(Submitted by: Joel Freeman)

Discussion of the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code is on the agenda for the Jan 9 Planning and Development Committee of the Evanston City Council. Len Sciarra (Co-Chairman of the Environment Board) and Rudy Wolfson (Chairman of the Energy Commission) will present the case for Evanston to adopt this energy code to supersede the Illinois Energy Conservation Code for Commercial Buildings that will become effective for all of Illinois in April 2006. As with most building codes, more recent editions include amendments and updates to make the code more practical and effective. As recommended by city staff in the Community Development Department, Evanston has already adopted all of the other 2003 building codes developed by the International Code Council.

City of Evanston Update

City to Present Draft of Strategic Plan to Public

(Submitted by: Joel Freeman, excerpted from the City E-Newsletter)

After more than six months of facilitated sessions with City Council members, community members and City staff, the City is in the home stretch of creating its first Strategic Plan. Community members are invited to a public meeting on the draft Strategic Plan, set for Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Evanston Northwestern Healthcare Hospital, 2650 Ridge Avenue. The meeting will include a presentation by Executive Partners, Inc., the consultant that facilitated the creation of the plan, and the opportunity for citizens to provide feedback. Parking is free to attendees.

Reservations are appreciated. Call the City Manager's Office, (847) 866-2936.