



Village of Westchester

10300 ROOSEVELT ROAD, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

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WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

July 11th, 2024 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

1. 6:30 - Call to Order

2. Pledge

3. Roll Call - All present

- Attending Commissioners: Liz Wiseman-Chase, LeeAnn Kruszynski, Lee Kaufman, Mariana Nicolae, Kari Roberg, Nikki Way, Walt Wojcik
- Attending Staff Representative: Annie Canavan
- Attending Board Representative: Evie Slavic
- Attending Residents: Mike Doman, Leanne Pettis

4. Inspiration

- a. Mariana Nicolae
 - i. Water is only 1% of GDP, but it impacts 99% of all GDP sectors.
- b. Next Month: 8/1/24 - Lee

5. Review of Minutes – Walt Wojcik

- a. Approval of 6/6/24 regular meeting minutes
 - i. Correction from Kari, and Lee last name, LeeAnn typo (not material changes)
 - ii. Lee motions to approve minutes as amended, Kari second, all approve.

6. Quarterly Reports

- a. Second Quarter - Walt
 - i. Walt will work on it in the next two weeks.

7. Old Business

- a. 2024 Newsletter Calendar
 - i. August: "Carbon Calculator" – Walt
 - 1. Walt will work with Annie to finalize.
 - ii. September: Waste related article - (TBD)
 - 1. Kari would like to write "How to host a Zero Waste event"

Village President
GREG HRIBAL

Village Clerk
SOPHIA COLLINS

Trustees
GIA MARIE BENLINE
PETER MARZANO
ROBERT MORALES
EVELYN SLAVIC
NICK STEKER
VICTORIA VANN

Village Manager
BARRY KRUMSTOK
Asst Village Manager
JOHN SCHWARZ
Administrative Services Coordinator
ANNIE CANAVAN
Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

Commissioners
LEE KAUFMAN
LEEANN KRUSZYNSKI
MARIANA NICOLAE
KARI ROBERG
NIKKI WAY
ELIZABETH WISEMAN-CHASE
WALTER WOJCICK

2. Nikki proposes a list of resources
3. Lee suggests how to repurpose because it will be more in line with "reuse" - Lee will write, Kari and Nikki will support. August 10 deadline. Nikki will write.
- iii. Monthly: Plant-Based Recipes – Kari Roberg
 1. Evie suggests adding 2 - 3 sentences on why plant-based. Debate on how to frame this to the wider audience.
 2. Process: everyone can send Kari recipes so she can manage the monthly newsletter.
- b. 2024 Planning Calendar
 - i. *Debrief:* Juneteenth Table Event – Liz Wiseman-Chase
 1. Mariana: lucky to be across the street from Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to talk about water conservation and water barrels. Walt: Couldn't get eclectic vehicle car there, but thought Liz did well engaging the community. Lee: Talked about bikes, had a good convo about Best of Provisio, lots of talk about the West Cook bike plan. Frannie Riche - Consultant for CMAP stopped by, Winton Jones from C4 stopped by. The only note was that the police vehicle was backed up and emitting exhaust into our booth. Walt suggests leaving an adjacent booth space empty to accomodate the electric vehicle. Nikki: Develop a list of materials so we know what to bring (compost banners were missing). Nikki to make a running list of outreach materials. LeeAnn: have a toolbox of materials.
 - ii. *Debrief:* 4th of July Parade – Walt/Liz
 1. Walt: Had six people, cars were identified. We didn't throw out candy, people handed out brochures and bookmarks. Nice variety of cars. Nikki: Be more clear about the concept of alternative transportation. Have more walkers with signs. Mike (public comment): people misunderstood the electric vehicles...need more signage and to be clear. Liz: Suggest next year do a casting call for a wider variety of vehicles.
 - iii. Reuse A Palooza September 21st & 22nd – LeeAnn Kruszynski
 1. 15 registrations so far, have a list of tips to send out to people. Need Facebook event from the Village. August 10 newsletter include QR code to map. Signs - Need to find them (7 remain) could use more.
 2. Nikki to send email to Village with ideas. Village Free Press. Nikki could put together a press release.
 - iv. Tree Walk October 5th – LeeAnn
 1. LeeAnn: This event is part of the tree grant because there needed to be public engagement around trees and tree planting. October 5. LeeAnn is inclined to do the block around Divine Infant... juxtapose old-school planting philosophy with the new philosophy.
 2. Nikki: point out trees that people can sign up for the fall tree planting and know what kind of trees they could get.
 3. Evie: Jim who did the tree inventory could participate (Annie to coordinate).
 - v. *Proposed:* Tour of IBEW Powering Chicago Training Facility – Liz
 1. Defer to next month.
 - vi. *Proposed:* Guided Tour of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District – Mariana
 1. MWRD needs to know two weeks in advance, who is coming, how many people (10 - 30 people only), copies of driver's licenses, list of cars, and

license plates. Next steps: Village needs to approve. Thursday 10 - 12 pm.

8. Updates from the Administrative Services Coordinator and Trustee Liaison – Annie Canavan, Evie Slavic

- a. Parkway Proposal Team Request: Arboricultural Specifications and Standards of Practice Manual (requirement of tree planting grant)
 - A. Our urban forestry management plan will be approved on July 23, prepped with the tree inventory. Any proposal should be related to this new plan. Will be available when the Board agenda is posted.
- b. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant award (IEPA) – RFP status
 - A. Annie is writing an RFP, hoping by the end of August to have the RFP out.
- c. Proposed movie showings at Westchester Public Library
 - A. Deferred until the Library is updated.
- d. Ability to show movies in Village boardroom
 - A. Need dates, EDC meetings are not on the calendar. Annie will check dates in September (except for September 12).
- e. Proposed Concerts in the Park/Electric Vehicle Car Show
 - A. Confirmed dates and bands, Annie proposed to Park District and will keep updated.
- f. GRC – Greenest Region Compact baseline scoring update
 - A. Meeting is set for Evie and Annie on Monday 7/15 for GRC. Liz mentioned Climate, Energy, Municipal operations, and Water as the focus topics. This is foundational work.

9. New Business

- a. Home Waste Reduction Resource – Kari
 - A. Write up a document of where to recycle items, suggestions of things you can change out to reduce waste. Mariana: info about plastic containers are helpful.
- b. Business Cards/Event Shirts – Mariana/Liz
 - A. Barry mentioned a generic one with the GROW distribution list. Liz suggested shirts for tabling events. LeeAnn mentioned a nametag so it is less money, and wasteful. Everyone agrees that nametag with “GROW” works. Evie will look into this.
 - B. SBC earmarked \$2k for GROW, need to put it on the agenda how to spend.
- c. IDPH/IEMA Press Release – Liz
 - A. The agencies issued this press release to ask residents to monitor air quality as they would the weather and plan accordingly. Can we get this out to the residents? A lot of people have medical conditions and are interested in this. encourages people to sign up for alerts. Suggestions: e-newsletter, Facebook.
- d. 2025 Event Calendar - Liz
 - A. Marina Minic is not available until Spring 2025 for Solar options - all agree this is a good event to host.

10. Commission Comments

- a. Lee: Received a survey about public transportation from Active Transportation Alliance - will send it on to the commission.
- b. Liz: Anti-idling ordinance? Road construction generating a lot of dust, the diesel trucks are left idling - bad for health. Liz contacted a village engineer and the problem was taken care of. Evie reports it's a blurb but does not apply to people who are in their vehicle.

11. Staff/Board Representative Comments

- a. No comments

12. Public Participation - *In order to give as many visitors as possible an opportunity to speak and in the interest of adjourning the meeting by 8:00 p.m., please limit your comments to 3 minutes in length, unless further time is granted by the Commission.*

- a. Leanne - EDC is getting business cards through Minuteman Press. Similarly, it will be a generic. Plant-based recipes - take advantage of Holy Week, and make sure to include ethnic dishes, Indian and Asian overlooked. Recycling resources - love idea of getting on website, would need to be blurb so people can find it. SBC has two containers - one for batteries, one for lightbulbs (lightbulbs were crushed). Lagrange Recycling group said that Chicago textile bin in Hillside still around (not removed).
- b. Mike - Thinks GROW is doing a good job.

13. Adjournment

The Village of Westchester will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Village of Westchester, should contact the office of the Fire Chief, 10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL, (708) 345-0441, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

8:13 PM - Lee motions to adjourn, LeeAnne seconds. All approve.

2024 Goals: Education and Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan

Lee Kaufman	School Bicycling Event, Electric Powered Equipment for Natural Lawn Care
LeeAnn Kruszynski	Tree Walk, Planting Demonstration, Arbnet, Reusa Palooza, Climate Action
Mariana Nicolae	Water Quality/Sustainability, Composting, Climate Change Awareness
Kari Roberg	Zero Waste, Connection to Nature, Climate Action Plan
Nikki Way	Reusa Palooza, Commission Marketing support, Green infrastructure/solar/rain and native garden/ecological interest walk, painted rain barrels
Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase	Climate Action Plan, Air Pollution/Health, Incentives for Electric Appliances, Solar Education
Walter Wojcik	Climate Action, Electric Vehicles, EV Car Show

