



Village of Westchester

10300 ROOSEVELT ROAD, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154
(708)345-0020 FAX (708)345-2873
WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting

Minutes

July 6, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

Attending Commissioners: Matt Downs (MD), Liz Wiseman-Chase (LWC), Lee Kaufman (LK), Nicole Molinaro (NM), LeeAnn Kruszynski (LAK), Nikki Way (NW)

Village Representation: Evie Slavic (ES), Dawn Wucki-Rossback, Barry Krumstok (BK)

Recorder: N. Molinaro

Absent: Steve Crowley

Attending Residents: Leann Pettis (LP), Diane Scott, Cathe Flynn, Mariana Nicolae (MN), Mike & Pam Doman

1. 6:30 - Call to Order - 6:31pm

2. Pledge Solar

3. Inspiration

- Matt Downs - The activist is not the one who says the river is dirty. The activist is the person who cleans up the river. - Ross Perot
- Next Month: 8/3/23 - L. Kaufman

4. Roll Call - Quorum established, 6 commissioners present

5. Review of Minutes – Nicole Molinaro

- Approval of 5-4-2023 minutes
- Approval of 6-1-2023 minutes

LAK motions to approve, MD seconds - All Approved

6. 6:40 – Presentation

- Preparing for Solar Growth with Solar APP+ – Liz Wiseman-Chase (4 min.)
- Q & A

Solar APP+ is a free Solar Automated Permitting Process software application developed by the Natural Renewable Energy Laboratory in collaboration with numerous stakeholders including UL Solutions, International Code Council, and International Association of Electrical Inspectors. It is endorsed by the US Mayors Caucus. Solar APP+ is designed to save building departments time and money, ensure safety and code compliance, and allow municipalities to accelerate residential solar deployment rapidly while accommodating 5-14 fold growth in municipal solar permitting requests when compared to traditional permitting processes. The software will perform automated plan review with very strict code compliance checks for electrical and structural work (Village would initially set-up customized code compliant templates). The software issues permits for code-compliant applications (catches code issues, typo's and errors and returns corrections to the applicant instantly. Returns corrections to applicant instantly) and steers eligible solar projects away from the permitting queue, and provides for online fee payment (which may be integrated with existing payment process). Once the permit is issued, it will generate a site-specific

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

Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

Commissioners
MATT DOWNS
LEE KAUFMAN
LEEANN KRUSZYNSKI
NICOLE MOLINARO
NIKKI WAY
ELIZABETH WISEMAN-CHASE

detailed inspection checklist (can be used in the field). The software may be integrated with Accela/EnerGov/other or used as a stand alone platform. Solar APP+ would also help the Village to earn points towards a SolSmart designation. (ATTACHMENT)

7. 6:50 - Old Business

- a. GROW ordinance, scope, and process for recommendations – Evie Slavic - Welcome to BK. Early and often communication important direct to staff. 10th of the month before for newsletter. Draft program info to get into Board Packet. Asst. Manager John Schwartz also available. Solar experience from BK in previous village role and is familiar with the Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution for community solar offered by the Metropolitan Mayors caucus and will have the attorney review the offering. Grant applications, no time currently with staffing. Look at other sustainability groups in area. WM contract up in about a year. Sooner the better on info. LAK - Asked about Dawn, 3-30 day rollovers till Aug. Wild Fire/Code Red Air Pollution Alerts
- b. Commissioner vacancy – Nicole (4 min.) Have two interviews for vacant seat. See if July 20th works. Would like to get GROW's recommendation onto the 8/8 COW for approval. If 7/20 doesn't work out will consider having short regular meeting on 8/3 and conduct interviews in closed executive session after regular meeting.
- c. 2023 quarterly board reports for April, July - Nicole (3 min.) Compile an annual reflection report based on Quarterly reports. Include listing of Opportunities and GRC Theme. NM working on 2nd Quarter shortly in same format.
1st Q Report - LAK motions to approve, LK seconds - All Approved
- d. GS2 vs. Aggregation – Liz (2 min.) Defer
- e. GRC2 – Liz (1 min.) Defer
- f. Prairie/Native Plant Murals/Rain Barrels – Nikki Way (3 min.) Mural proposal for next Spring - MWRD 5 rain barrels donated, leave the logo. Educational opportunity. Okay to have rain barrel in front of house? Careful with wording on barrels. Business sponsors. Regroup with CAB collaboration.
- g. G-4 – Nicole (1 min.) Defer
- h. FEMA – CRS – Nicole (1 min.) Defer
- i. Earth Hours at Library – Nicole (2 min.) Setting up these hours at library was a result of the MGG Natural Lawn Care presentation in May which we discussed at June regular meeting being an opportunity to have a continuous conversation to engage residents. NM set up tentative hours at the library and will await Board approval. **Dates are 9/21, 10/19, 11/21, 12/19 @ 6:30pm in Library Community Room**
The first one in September can be Reusa affiliated, the one in October can be Compost related and Nov/Dec we can figure out but would say how to ecologically prepare for winter, including Leave The Leaves which is hand-in-hand with Natural Lawn Care. We can also have a Buckthorn Mitigation presentation in Nov/Dec.

January would begin documentary movies from One Earth that Liz could line up, Jan/Feb/March...maybe in March we redistribute Natural Lawn Care calendar and then present in April? Just something consistent on 3rd week of the month, either a Tuesday or Thursday, at different location to increase resident engagement and awareness that we exist and are here for the residents. More exposure to reach more of our community.
EWC motions to approve, MD seconds - All Approved

j. 2023 Planning Calendar – 7:15

- i. **Debrief:** “July 4th Parade” – Open (3 min.) NW and NM held banner and had 3 EVs and Westchester Bicycle Group as alternate transportation resources. LWC and MD also participated in the event. Need more canopy to cover our street and reduce the heat. Very hot again on route even with earlier start time.

- ii. "Our Climate Crisis" with Kent Taylor, Sat. 7/29: 9:00 am – Liz (3 min.). Recent event with PM wildfire air pollution. More invites needed. Other villages and LWV invited. Stunning presentations. ES - Something to post on website of highlights? LAK - YouTube or something maybe? Very visual presentation. Will be in Board Room.
- iii. "Solar Switch Chicagoland" with Marina Minic, Sat. 8/19: 9:00 am – Liz (2 min.). Rebranded from Grow Solar Chicagoland and now a competitive auction to get price down. Access online and have a few in-person presentations which we will hold one here again.
- iv. "Reuse-a-Palooza" Sat. 9/23 & Sun. 9/24 – LeeAnn Kruszynski (4 min.). Planning call tomorrow. Christos Furs & Leathers reuse/recycle fashion display. Latoya at craft shop willing to have up-cycling demo or something similar. Would like FB event set up online and any demonstrations without knowing turnout for events. Another ad in next months newsletter. NW-darker logo. Library hour in September for Reusa demo/promo. Signage for high traffic corner: One banner, reusable signage. Sign ordinance in play. Electronic sign is working now, lets use it. Send to ES/BK.
- v. "Tour de Proviso" *Tentative*: 10/7 – Lee Kaufman (2 min.) Intergovernmental with all public bodies as a special event committee that Lee and whoever else on committee will be planning for event. Dave Kosir helping organize event too. Volunteers for day of event needed as well as riders.
- vi. ~~"Benefits of Green Infrastructure" with Jeff Swano, — Nicole (1 min.)~~ ~~Defer~~
- vii. ~~"Native Plant Sale" — Nicole (1 min.)~~ ~~Defer~~
- viii. "Electric Vehicle Car Show" – Liz (1 min.) Power Chicago an educational arm in Tower building here in Westchester will approach to sponsor and have in their parking lot. Spring or Fall of next year. Tesla drivers swarm for these type of events. Owner of building needs to approve.
- ix. "Pumpkin Smash" – Matt (1 min.) November 4th need info for newsletter by Aug 10th for September.

8. Current Fiscal Year Financial Report – Open (1 min.)

- a. Budget: \$1,500?
- b. Expended: \$170 (Midwest Grows Green Speaker honorarium)
- c. Accrual: \$96 Parade bookmarks (Bicycle Event/July 4th Bookmarks) Nothing as of now for Bicycle Event. Connect more with schools, parks and library on bicycle events.
Can another Commissioner take on keeping track of budget and expenditures?

9. New Business – 7:35

- a. Cottonwood Seeds – Lee (2 min.) LK-Realize how dangerous this is to catch fire. Public awareness. EWC-Any specific area in village? No, not having rain plays a huge role. Dawn - watching air conditioners too. Connect with Fire Chief.
- b. GROW logo – Nikki (2 min.) Incorporates GROW's Word Tree and name in one image.
Adopt new logo - EWC motions to approve, NW seconds - All Approved
- c. Air Pollution – Liz (3 min.) 5 board certifications in respiratory care, and a lived experience with airborne allergies and asthma and asking for approval of a quote from the American Lung Association (ALA), facts on indoor and outdoor brochure educations. \$75 to approve. Items were submitted as part of budget discussion. Talks about the facts and ways to improve or reduce exposure. Will be distributed residents attending educational events. Children, seniors, people with cardiopulmonary disease, and residents that have previously lived in red lined communities (due to likelihood of past exposure to toxic air pollution) are populations at highest risk from air pollution. Will prepare a rapid response education for future events. ES – Talk to Fire Chief about pricing of ALA pricing, Liz has long-standing relationship with this non-profit organization and they do not provide discounts. 6/27 joint park district-village event was held outdoors with very high levels of pollution. Illinois Department of Public Health provided guidance during this event (mechanism to notify the

village was lacking), as did the City of Chicago, but the Cook County Department of Public Health did not provide guidance. National Weather Service also provided a guidance, but is not a health authority. Felt helpless during last event and Liz offers her experience in future. Liz to work with President and VM and Dave. (2 ATTACHMENTS)

\$75 Air Pollution Brochure - NM motions to approve, NW seconds - All Approved

- d. Next newsletter/meeting agenda items (4 min.) Liz need stats on current solar installs and number of EVs. Due dates for newsletters are now the 10th of the prior month. Defer to Special meeting and consider two months in advance for newsletter articles.

10. 7:45 - 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.*

LP - Loves the Earth hours at library concerned about the dates of Nov/Dec being close to holiday.

MN - Last month meeting regarding International Water must be NPS certified, or you there is a risk of transmitting infections through the device. Was previously a global mgr for certification.

MikeD - (Had EV in Parade) 4th parade lots of fun and felt like there was an impact within the community seeing EVs. Since parade moved a little slow and bikers were walking some residents not in parade would come up to car to talk about EV.

11. 2023 Goals: Community Education and Engagement

a. Commissioner interests/participation

- x. Downs – Waste reduction, restoration, reduction in pesticide usage particularly to lawns
- xi. Kaufman – Alternative transportation, energy, landscaping, land use (placemaking), community engagement for change and improvement
- xii. Kruszynski – Trash/waste, Trees, Flooding
- xiii. Molinaro – Pesticide awareness and pollinator habitat. To reduce heat islands and make better use of our commons which includes Park District and Schools. Overall environmental literacy and ecological restoration. Flooding and reviewing FEMAs Community Rating System for Westchester.
- xiv. Way – Marketing and education, reduce waste, costume swap, prairie celebration murals.
- xv. Wiseman-Chase – Clean air, Clean energy, Climate Action Plan

12. Adjournment - 8:07pm NM motions to approve, LK seconds - All Approved

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.