



Village of Westchester

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Village Manager
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Asst Village Manager
JOHN SCHWARZ

Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

Commissioners
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LEE KAUFMAN
LEEANN KRUSZYNSKI
NICOLE MOLINARO
MARIANA NICOLAE
NIKKI WAY
ELIZABETH WISEMAN-CHASE

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting MINUTES

December 5, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

Attending Commissioners: Liz Wiseman-Chase (LWC), LeeAnn Kruszynski (LAK), Lee Kaufman (LK), Nicole Molinaro (NM), Mariana Nicolae (MN), Nikki Way (NW)

Village Representation: Evie Slavic (ES), Annie Canavan (AC), Victoria Vann-C4 (VV)

Recorder: N. Molinaro

Absent: Steve Crowley, Matt Downs (MD)

Attending Residents: Leann Pettis (LP), Mike & Pam Doman

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

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. Annie Canavan U of Maryland article - "Americans toss 25% more trash than usual between Thanksgiving and New Year's — about 1 million tons of extra garbage weekly..." Sustainable gifting: Experiences, Shop Local, DIY, Nature Based, Creative Gift Wrapping - <https://sustainability.umd.edu/gift>
- b. Next Month: 1-11-24: LAK

4. Roll Call - Quorum established, 5 commissioners present - 6:37pm NW arrived, 6 commissioners present

5. Review of Minutes

- a. Approval of 11-2-23 minutes – Nicole Molinaro
LAK motions to approve LK seconds - All Approved

6. Presentation: C-4 – presentation and discussion by Victoria Vann C4 Mission Statement: Advancing Sustainability Solidarity. Resilience - Climate - Equity. Compromised of over 15 municipalities located in west suburban Cook County and Seven Generations and Urban Efficiency Group. Monthly working groups to leverage partnerships to share ideas, secure resources/funding and drive large-scale projects. Bring surrounding communities together to drive reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increase equity & sustainability, bring awareness to environmental and

climate justice, support communities with fewer resources and/or haven't been engaged to share work. What are the peoples voices and priorities for our village? VV, LWC & NM attended En-ROADS Climate Action Simulation Game hosted by Riverside C4 group (<https://www.climateinteractive.org/en-roads/>). Really eye opening on needing many solutions collectively with no single initiative making large enough difference. Roadmap to 2050 Town Hall December 13th @ 6pm - Mock Roadmap - Learn about C4 priority buckets and find your niche: Place, Prosperity, Health & Well-Being, Connectivity, Living Infrastructure, Resource Regeneration, Green Generation (Middle & High School Students).

7. Old Business

- a. January Newsletter Submission due 12/7/23: Nikki Way MN update with reference to data. LWC & ES also has suggestions. Send draft to all. MN impressed being new with all accomplished. Picture for newsletter article to be taken.
 - i. Next Month due January 10th: *Garden Prep Timeline NM/NW*
 - ii. *MN - March newsletter*
- b. 2023 Planning Calendar –
 - i. *Debrief: "Pumpkin Smash" 11/4/23 – Matt Downs - NW, NM & MD - Defer on pounds to Matt - NW, Mayfair not as full. Listed Village Hall, not 2 locations. LWC - little notice on Halloween candy to hand out. Have at WPD to handout. LK-Could this be extended to Monday for those who are around town on a weekday? ES-90+ local communities participate. NM- Print something in newsletter to cut and hand out at Halloween? ES-At grocery store signage near pumpkins. AC-1000 subscribers for weekly newsletter.*
 - ii. **"Cross Community Climate Collaborative Town Hall" @ 6:00pm – 12/13/23 – Victoria Vann** - NM-Hand out Buckthorn flyers.
- c. 2024 Meeting Dates: 1/11/24*, 2/1/24, 3/7/24, 4/4/24, 5/2/24, 6/6/24, 7/11/24*, 8/1/24, 9/5/24, 10/3/24, 11/7/24, 12/3/24* – Nicole Molinaro
NM-Request to post on bulletin board at Village Hall. Only Tuesday meeting date will be December due to Winter Wonderland hosted by WPD. 2 dates are the 2nd week, not the first week as noted with asterisk. Request to have calendar invites sent to commissioners similar to previous year. Confirm if this is something for staff or NM to complete for the new calendar year.
- d. 2024 Planning Calendar
 - i. Engagement on Climate Action: Climate Action Museum Tentative Dates: 1/12/24, 2/16/24, 3/15/24 @2pm - Liz Wiseman-Chase LWC-Tried several times to request event dates - January may not happen depending. More investigation to reserve spots. One of six climate action museums in the world across from Union Station so we can take train.

- ii. “Buckthorn and Healthy Hedges” with Dave Coulter - 1/18 @6:30pm – Nicole Molinaro NM-Working on presentation now with Dave. Can be used many times throughout year. Reached out to Joanna at FPDCC for materials and volunteer opportunities. February 26th-March 1, 2024 National Invasive Species Awareness Week, would love to have on-site demonstration with PW. LK- Could we engage MWRD/Addison Creek project potentially. ES-Bring in physical examples on meeting date so people can see in person. NM-Lots of examples on property to pick from.
 - iii. “Air Pollution and Your Health” with C. Patricia Macias-Huerta, MD, MPH and Liz Wiseman-Chase – February LWC-Power Point almost done. Include events for senior, children, people of color and medical conditions. American Lung Association state of the air report may be another one that applies to Midwestern states. Particulate Matter Air Pollution monitor, portable - \$300. ES-Does FD have anything similar they use to monitor air quality? What, if any, pollutants do we monitor. LWC-Idle of cars, buses, biodiesel fuel - Anti idling ordinance.
 - iv. NM-Painting of rain barrels and rain barrel demonstration in April. LK-Incentivize from store electric lawn care equipment show and tell in March. LWC-April Showers, Brings May flowers. ES-With I Love Native Plants. NW-Has Rain barrel details on type of paint and how to seal. Budget for seed to grow plants with rain barrels. Cannot sell, who do we donate to?
- e. 2024 Goals: Education and Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan –
 - i. Downs – Pumpkin Smash, Natural Lawn Care
 - ii. Kaufman – School Bicycling Event, Electric Powered Equipment for Natural Lawn Care
 - iii. Kruszynski – Tree Walk, Planting Demonstration, Arbor Day, Reusa Palooza, Climate Action Plan
 - iv. Molinaro – Bee City USA, Composting, Natural Lawn Care, Buckthorn
 - v. Nicolae – Water Quality/Sustainability – Composting, Climate Change Awareness
 - vi. Way – Club Mend, Reusa Palooza, Commission Marketing support, Green infrastructure/solar/rain and native garden/ecological interest walk, painted rain barrels
 - vii. Wiseman-Chase – Climate Action Plan, Air Pollution/Health, Incentives for Electric Appliances, Solar Education and Solar Walk, EV Car Show

8. New Business –

- a. Discussion Commissioner terms ending 2/24 Staggered to start and then three year terms. LWC-Matt to not renew term, has recommendation for replacement. LK-Renew term for 1 year. ES-Run past staff to see what options are for terms. LWC-Process for recruitment. 3 year term, statement of interest and resume. Send to GROW distribution vs Evie. ES-Well prepared compared during interview process. NW-Add to January newsletter

for recruitment. NM-Ask MN how she felt about recruitment process. MN-Nothing in newsletter. Went smoothly. ES-Get recruitment into Jan and send to ES

9. **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.*

MikeD-Question, any data on trees planted, based on calendar year. Net gain yet? ES-Planted 200+ trees each year. From OP and they have mature canopies. ES-2021 ordinance where parkway is planted regardless of resident request. Budget to plant and 50/50 program adds more trees. AC-Tree Inventory finished, working on management plan. LAK-Steve committed to rebuilding canopy. Oak specific and increasing corridors. 60-70 trees extra in 2024 due to grant LAK assisted with. ES-Year 3 of planting 1000 trees. Storm damage and old trees a concern. What can we do to restore and preserve our existing canopy? Buckthorn removal aids in the health of our existing canopy as well as proper pruning and herbaceous friends.

10. Adjournment 8:06pm LK motions to approve, NW seconds - All Approve

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.