



Village of Westchester

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

Village President
GREG HRIBAL

Village Clerk
SOPHIA COLLINS

Trustees
GIA MARIE BENLINE
PETER MARZANO
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Village Manager
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ROSSBACH

Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting

Minutes

June 1, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

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

Village Representation: None

Recorder: N. Molinaro

Absent: Matt Downs (MD), Evie Slavic (ES)

Attending Residents: Leann Pettis, Patricia Mitchell-Braxton, Tina Obina-Nepomucemo, Lynn Baker, Roxanne Riordan & Mike Reliford

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

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. Nikki Way - "A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people." ~Franklin D. Roosevelt
- b. Next Month: 7/6/23 Matt Downs

4. Roll Call - Quorum established 5 commissioners present

5. Review of Minutes

- a. Approval of 5-4-2023 minutes – *deferred until July - no vote*

6. 6:40 – Presentation

- a. International Pure Water Filter – Kenny Valentino (5 min.)
 - i. Works with municipalities only, started in IL. Stated that our water is some of the worst water in Midwest next to MI. Bring a short, intermediate, and long term solution for water remediation. Developed in Israel, team here to spread the word. Technology different using nano technology, not carbon filter or reverse osmosis. Provide units and year worth of cartridges, one cartridge last three months. Gave presentation at South Suburban Mayors' Conference. Asked how do we fund a project like this with GROW recommendations?

b. Q & A

- i. LWC Discussed that the Village of Westchester is currently in full compliance with the Chicago Department of Water Management and IL EPA water standards.
- ii. KV stated that Water Quality Filters manufactured in Chicago and recycled in Chicago and stated we could visit the recycling center. Stated that another facility in South Elgin is planned and was funded with minority business venture grant..
- iii. KV stated IPW only has the one device on the US market and only in a few local Chicago Area municipalities Elmwood Park and Leyden Township, with plans underway in Cicero, Lyons and Berwyn.
- iv. Current device is a plastic water picture with replaceable filters. Representative quoted the Village \$300,000 for one year for 1,000 households. Was unable to speak to the number of gallons for which each filter would effectively filter. Stated “a family of four.” Stated cost for use is 80 cents a day per person. Subscription \$32 bucks per cartridge. Stated municipalities fund acquisition through lead remediation funds put aside, reallocation of funds, based on water revenue increase or state funded grants.
- v. Discussed lab results of filter effectiveness related to the reports produced to the vendor from a water testing laboratory in WI. One set of results were presented for evaluation per panel of analytics (i.e. VOCs...), data presented was 2-3 years old, and did not contain all the assays the materials the vendor claimed the device effectively filters.
- vi. Was asked to describe quality control, quality assurance, and proficiency testing process. Quality Assurance testing how often? Stated testing all along, latest tests based on legislation passed by state.
- vii. When asked about there not being US patent information for International Pure Water, stated device has US patent under inventor’s name, and they are in midst of rebranding. Asked about ANSI certification with NPS or WQA. Stated not yet. Stated beta of new version of the device will be coming out July 15th and will have certification.
- viii. Stated process for recycling cartridge is negotiable based on terms of agreement. Suggested a collection bin in Village Hall.
- ix. IPW has future plans to develop and market a tap connected to a sink filter assembly. Currently does not have a whole house filtration system.

7. 6:55 - Old Business

- a. 2023 quarterly board report for April - Nicole Molinaro (5 min.)
 - i. Will send draft tonight. Utilizes GRC Framework and moving moving connecting to Agenda items.
- b. Mosquito abatement – Nicole (5 min.) Called Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District, spoke with biologist who works there. DVMAD does not conduct routine adult mosquito control operation, i.e. a DANGER code word chemical called DUET Dual-Action Adulticide. Asked if they would come out for an educational event that would include how to use Mosquito Dunks at home and ways to mitigate or repel mosquitoes in an ecological way. Maybe an in-house program where village could bulk buy for dunks at reduced cost.
- c. 2023 Planning Calendar (30 min.)
 - i. *Debrief:* “Bicycle Safety Events” Wed. 5/10, Sat. 5/13 – Lee Kaufman (2 min.)
 1. Turnout less than hoped, 8. Instructor very informative, learned. Talked at schools about bike safety. Ride through the neighborhood and promote bike safety. Ride IL website.
 - ii. *Debrief:* “Spring CleanUp”, Sat. 5/13 – Open () - no one participated from GROW

- iii. *Debrief: "Sustainable Landscaping"* with Ryan Anderson, Sat. 5/20 – Nicole (2 min.)
 - 1. LP - Awareness of Dogs and kids and pesticides and walking into home and carry it in. Parks chemicals. Ongoing at library, quarterly event with season. Send to LeeAnn K presentation.
- iv. "Benefits of Green Infrastructure" with Jeff Swano, Thurs. 6/29: 6:30 pm, Village Hall – Nicole (2 min.) - *Moved to Fall*
- v. "July 4th Parade" – (10 min.)
 - 1. Clean Energy EV Cars to use, Mike D, Matt D, Mike R. Westchester Cycle Group to join us. Pass out bookmarks that Diane offered to handle again. Inflatable hats to pass out potentially. 9:30 parade starts, not noon.
- vi. "Our Climate Crisis" with Kent Taylor, Sat. 7/29: 9:00 am or 10:00 am – Liz (2 min.)
 - 1. Venue either Community Room, Library or Prairie House. Very visual presentation. Reach out to other communities to promote.
- vii. "GROW Solar Chicagoland" with Marina Minic, Sat. 8/19: 9:00 am – Liz (2 min.)
 - 1. General technology and incentives as well as group buy thru CUB. In Court Room, in line to approve by Board for newsletter.
- viii. "Reuse-a-Palooza" Sat. 9/23 & Sun. 9/24 – LeeAnn Kruszynski (5 min.)
 - 1. Dates, Eventbrite established, another ad with registration link. Planning call on Monday. Looking for people to facilitate up-cycling demo at a home. Reach out to craft store and hold at library. Park District opportunity too for space to hold. Nicole to reach out to crafty folks in GGG. Sweater mending workshop or call out for demonstration of up-cycling. Logo designed and finalized.
- ix. "Tour de Proviso" *Tentative: 10/7* – Lee (2 min.)
 - 1. Evie checked in to form group with CAB, Cycle Group and GROW (Lee) to begin to plan. October 7th, first Saturday of October.

8. 7:35 - Current Fiscal Year Financial Report – Liz (2 min.)

- a. Budget:
- b. Expended: \$0
- c. Accrual: \$170 (Midwest Grows Green Speaker honorarium)
- d. Accrual: \$??? (Bicycle Event) - *no funds communicated to GROW or voted on.*

9. New Business

- a. Pothole Repairs - Lee - *West of Mannheim on Canterbury horrible for bikers. Reach out to Steve or put a work order in.*
- b. Next meeting agenda items (open)
 - i. *Reusa, Mural, International Pure Water, Tour, BeeCity USA, Community Solarhouse/Aggregation, FEMA CRS, Fire Danger (cotton wood seeds set fire)*
- b. *Mural follow-up June 14/15 meeting with CAB to start the planning of initiative. Nikki, Nicole and LeeAnn interested in attending.*

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.*

LB - Wooden birdhouses to clean often as there were bee (yellow jackets and hornets, wasps) hives instead, native areas and not also. More rabbits in yard.

MR - Help with expedited permitting for solar. Solar app free with standard permit. PTO - permission to turn on. SREC still available.

TOB - Waiver form for 4th of July parade with cars and cycle group.

MR - Green Infrastructure discussion and how term defined.

TOB - Bicycle racks - Grants?, be aware to complete due diligence so that grant requirements maintained.

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 - 8:00pm LAK Motions to Adjourn, Lee 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.