



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

September 7, 2023 @ 6:30pm
Village Hall Board Room

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

Village Representation: Evie Slavic (ES), Barry Krumstok (BK)

Recorder: N. Molinaro

Absent: Steve Crowley, LeeAnn Kruszynski (LAK)

Attending Residents: Leann Pettis (LP), Mariana Nicolae (MN)

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

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

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. Liz Wiseman-Chase - "You don't cause or drive change. Change is like motivation. You can only create an environment that is conducive to motivations for change. Change is like a seedling. You must nurture it and if you create the right conditions, then the seedling will grow. As Peter Senge once said 'People don't resist change; they resist being changed.' Therefore, our efforts are about creating that condition - that environment for change. Our tendency toward analysis, logic, systems, tools, and science can be helpful; however, it is the personalization, emotion, and internalization that is required before change can manifest. This is why the term 'change management' is somewhat of an oxymoron and a poor way to describe our goal. A more appropriate, although imperfect word, is change enablement." - Tom Coleman, President Climate Reality, Chicago Metro Chapter 6/3/23
- b. Next Month: 10/5/23 - Mariana Nicolae

4. Roll Call - Quorum established, 5 commissioners present, LAK absent

5. Review of Minutes – Nicole Molinaro

- a. Approval of 8-3-23 minutes
LK motions to approve, NW seconds - All Approved with updates, BK discussion with changes to separate Executive Session

6. 6:40 – Old Business

- a. Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution – Barry Krumstok (2 min.) - One of our original objectives from a year ago, This is an well-established initiative through the Chicago Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC), Environmental Committee. Mark Priutt of The Power Bureau (former Director of Illinois Power Agency) is an advisor through the MMC. He will be sharing a presentation of the details of the initiative at Tuesday's board meeting. There are currently 21 municipalities in the cooperative, with a wait list and more programs being

- added. After the presentation, approve a resolution, get approval and then staff sends out information to opt-in for waiting list. More vendors so waiting list is moving a bit more quickly. 10% savings down from 20% due to passage of IL Clean Energy Jobs Act legislation. Annual letter of participation. Only pure solar, no turbine/wind. Solar farms not regional necessarily, farms all over state. Subscribers are opting in and out of the program. Upon approval of participating in the initiative, can expected it to be available for residents to 'opt-in' to the program in 2024. Goal of getting more renewable energy onto the grid. Will get two bills, ComEd (our local grid operator for delivery) & MC2 (for energy supply).
- b. Commissioner vacancy – Evie Slavic (2 min.) - Mariana appointment, Sept 26th, resolution to appoint to GROW and be sworn in.
 - c. 2023 quarterly board reports for July - Nicole (3 min.) - Will have by end of upcoming weekend draft copy. Request for assistance for 3rdQ report. Liz offered since she had a few events specific to her goals. Time consuming connecting GRC Goals, two people can make it go quicker as well as get all commissioners familiar with utilizing GRC not only for Quarterly Report but also to begin connecting Agenda items to GRC to avoid searching GRC goals for the first time when completing Quarterly Reports.
 - d. 2023 Planning Calendar – **6:50**
 - i. *Debrief: “Solar Switch Chicagoland”*, Sat. 8/19: 9:00 am – Liz (3 min.) - Marina Minic from CUB and Adam from WindFree solar gave a presentation on the benefits of going solar, solar basics, incentives available, the options of leasing vs. owning, *Illinois Solar for All* and the the *Solar Switch Chicagoland* group buy program. Promotion of the event included the Village newsletter, GROW, CUB and Proviso Township email blasts, Westchester Facebook postings, outreach through contacts at the Village of Maywood, LaGrange Park Sustainability Commission, Go Green Facebook groups (LaGrange, Oak Park, and Forest Park), and distribution of about 800 invites door by LWC, LK, ES, Pam Doman. 25 attended, 16 Westchester and mix of other communities (Lombard, LaGrange Park, Western Springs, Brookfield, Berkeley, and Forest Park). Oak Park’s environmental community is well-established and their events are well attended. In speaking with Marina, she suggested that many communities are redirecting their community engagement activities to meet people where they are. She suggested that we consider hosting a Solar Walk (similar to garden walk) and be present at community events to spark interest. There was a hiccup with the email distribution, After adding 60 to the GROW distribution, was unable to add more people to the list. Referred to Dave Kosir for assistance.t other community events. Hiccup with email distribution list.
 - ii. “Reuse-a-Palooza” and Partner Events - Sat. 9/23 & Sun. 9/24 – Nikki Way (5 min.) - Full page in paper. 105 houses participating, 80 both day. Partner events. Oak Park Repair Cafe at Library 10-3(1). Challenging due to them being volunteers. Promote, join some groups. Qs-BK - Digital billboard, Dave, Sarah & Greg to add in electronic billboard after Modchester. Can we add partner events on webpage verses link to download PDF? Connect with Dave on updating webpage. Individual on each event with teasers. Can we use village printer for flyers? Yes, to be printed with knowledge of quantity and advance notice.
 - iii. “Costume Swap” – Nikki (1 min.) - Pause till next year, pivot to repair cafe on monthly basis, mending specifically for now.
 - iv. “Club Mend – Nikki (2 min.) - Who in the community can promote their services? Create a proposal, for Club Mend, and volunteers. Community room at library or at village hall. Mend is interchangeable word which can be inclusive to mending lawns, earth, habitat, etc. as well.
 - v. “Tour de Proviso”: 10/7 – Lee Kaufman (2 min.) - Village has route planned and Westchester Bike Group is testing on Saturday. Applauds village for not crossing into major streets. A little short at 4 miles which was on purpose as a rider can double the

- route for 8 miles. Feedback from last year was that there wasn't an alternative route that was shorter.
- vi. GROW Table at Tour de Proviso "Learn to Compost" – Nicole (5 min.) - Matt may have table and chairs, flyer for Pumpkin Smash 11/4, 10/21 shredding event, 10/19 library event. Promote GROW as commission overall in village. Possible opportunities to have education display at pop-up tables at Mariano's or Jewel, The Farm on 31st Ask business well in advanced for solicitation opportunities. Let staff know ahead of time. **Fund request to purchase 2-2'x5' reusable x-frame banners not to exceed \$200 - NM motions to approve, MD seconds - All Approved**
 - vii. "Pumpkin Smash" – Matt Downs (3 min.) - Have two locations, Community Church and Mayfair. Add Library event in newsletter, will send by Friday to Frank. Awaiting WM contact confirmation on two dumpster locations. Last year was okay so should be okay this year. Only had print out signage in previous years. Would like reusable banner for both locations. Does SCARCE have banner type. Date is 11/4 - 1st Sat **Fund request to purchase 2-4'x2' reusable banners not to exceed \$200 - MD motions to approve, NW seconds - All Approved**
 - viii. 2023 Earth Events at Library – Nicole (5 min.) - Newsletter stay on point with due dates. 10/19 - Send to staff for events, and to promote Pumpkin Smash, get on calendar. No September Hours.
 - ix. "Air Pollution and Health" with C. Patricia Macias, MD – Liz (2 min.) - collaboration of new event. Dr. Macias is board certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. She has a Doctorate in Medicine and a Masters degree in Public Health. Liz has worked with her in both clinical and administrative roles on and off for the last 30 years. She was formerly the Director of Critical Care Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital, Director of Tuberculosis (TB) Control for Cook County currently services as a pulmonary consultant with Northshore Health System in service to underserved patients. In addition, she has served as an expert of the management of tuberculosis, including drug-resistant TB for the International Union of the World Health Organization, traveling to a number of developing countries. May be ready to provide education on indoor air pollution as soon as this year and anticipate education on outdoor air pollution to be available by summer of next year.

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

- a. Budget: \$1,500? - Budget tracking - Need help with. Evie volunteered.
- b. Expended: \$170 (Midwest Grows Green Speaker honorarium)
- c. Accrual: \$??? (Bicycle Event/July 4th Bookmarks/Reuse-a Palooza)
- d. Request for approval storyboard printing in support of "Learn to Compost"
- e. Reuse-a-Palooza - Is signage in yet? Nikki sent off to Kathy Barker (staff). ES/BK to follow-up
- f. "Pumpkin Smash" signage

9. New Business – 7:15

- a. Buckthorn Grant – Nicole - Another grant LAK helped facilitate and write for village. \$10k we believe is grant amount - Wedgwood bridge area buckthorn removal and native tree replanting. Status on grant can be requested - Buckthorn ordinance approval this month at upcoming Board meeting.
- b. 2024 Planning Calendar ES suggestion to take a month or two each to host library events that are connected with our interests below - Have planning calendar for 2024 at beginning of the year. - Talk about on next agenda. NM to secure 2024 Library Hour Dates
 - i. Matt - Pumpkin Smash for sure each year
 - ii. Lee - More bike training and incorporation into schools, more continuous conversations regarding bike safety - Safe Routes to School, Continuous child education on cycling. LWC - Bike buses, kids bike to school and then bus lead -

generally a Friday. Engage more with WM contract, to have opportunity for a more customized contract for residents. Have copy from last year to send to ES (LWC will send) and put on next months agenda. GROW can make suggestions, cannot be in meeting and LeeAnn will be used as a resource with her background working at WM Sustainability role.

- iii. LeeAnn - Absent, secure details at October meeting
- iv. Nicole - BeeCity USA, Compost, Natural Lawn Care presentation, FEMA CRS down the road
- v. Nikki - Monthly Club Mend, Rain Barrel initiative art proposal, Costume Swap, helping with marketing, Tree Walk (from survey), Forest or Plant Walk
- vi. Liz - Promoting solar in different ways, group buy, one of 10 communities with in-person event, Electric vehicle car show, Solar Walk, look into incentives for electric appliance rebates (possible group buy for water heater example), CS2 Community Solar education, and events on indoor/outdoor air pollution.
- vii. Mariana - NEW Commissioner, secure details at October meeting
- c. Next newsletter – Matt - add library hours event on 10/19 as two separate events
- d. NOV - What NOT to do - Overwintering habitat & Buckthorn - LK & NM (Also 11/21 Library Hour topic (LP Idea below) and a teaser to not throw out costumes for Swap)
- e. Next meeting agenda items (4 min.) - October Agenda items send via email

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 - Opportunity to get word out about a possible Costume Swap in 2024. For November newsletter to not throw out costumes LWC-Buy Nothing Group organizing costume reuse, can also promote concept in FB Groups. Buckthorn education at Library Hours. Bring physical examples.

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
 - xvi. Nicolae - ...

12. Adjournment - 8:07pm LK motions to approve, MD 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.