



Village of Westchester

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Village President
NICK STEKER

Village Clerk
JENNIFER HALL

Trustees
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CATHY KURATKO
TRACY MARKEY
ROBERT MORALES
EVELYN SLAVIC

Village Manager
DAWN WUCKI-
ROSSBACH

Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting

Minutes

May 4, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

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

Village Representation: Evie Slavic (ES)

Recorder: N. Way

Absent: N/A

Attending Residents: Dianne Scott

1. Call to Order – 6:35 PM

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. LeeAnn Kruszynski – Jane Goodall quote
- b. Next Month: 6/1/23 – Matt Downs

4. Roll Call

5. 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.*

Dianne Scott: Would like to have murals that represent, found an artist from Westchester named Jeff Zimmermann, who is well known. Thinks we need a mural when you're coming in to Westchester by the hotdog place.

Lee: We could also have sculptures

6. Review of Minutes

- a. Approval of 4-6-2023 minutes
 - i. Liz proposes amending of minutes including CMAP and CS2

Lee makes a motion to approve meeting minutes as amended, Matt seconds, all approve.

Quick discussion about minutes, Evie asks if we should publish abbreviated minutes in newsletter? Nikki suggested quarterly. Evie will mock up what the Meeting Highlights will look like.

7. Old Business

- a. 2023 quarterly board report for April (Nicole)
 - i. The report is in the works, it connects to the GRC
- b. 2023 Planning Calendar (Nicole)
 - i. *Debrief:* Arbor Day Event – 4/28 (Nicole)
 1. Dianne had a nice handout, Nicole learned that two PW staff want to become arborists. A teacher contacted another group because they had flyers that were not used.
 - ii. *Debrief:* "Westchester Shred to Recycle"- 4/29 (Evie)

1. Rained, all trees and seeds were given away, we collected over 9,000lbs of paper. Food Pantry made \$900 cash.
- iii. "Bicycle Safety Events" (Lee)
 1. Wed. 5/10: 5:00 pm – 7 pm, ages 16+
 2. Sat. 5/13: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, ages 5-8, ages 9-15
 - a. Evie: they set the route for the bike riders, Steve and the police contributed.
- iv. "Spring Clean Up", Sat. 5/13, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Village Hall (Evie)
 1. Village may be ordering safety vests, boy scout troop, girl scout troop participating
 2. Evie suggests that we look for areas that need to be cleaned.
- v. "Sustainable Landscaping" with Ryan Anderson, Sat. 5/20: 9:00 am – 10:00 am, Village Hall (Nicole)
 1. No sign up, communicate with Dave to create an event on website and Facebook.
 2. Nicole needs to get info for the event to Dave – what his discussion is
 - a. Nikki will help with messaging
- vi. "Benefits of Green Infrastructure" with Jeff Swano, Thurs. 6/8: 6:30 pm, Village Hall (Nicole)
 1. Informative, and applies to the GRC
 2. Evie needs to get it approved – needs details and topics to discuss, must be resident-centered, must fit our ordinances, etc. Needs to compel the board.
 3. Nicole will talk about moving the date to later so it can be in the newsletter
- vii. "July 4th Parade" (Evie)
 1. GROW will have a table at the end, if there is an end
 2. Nicole would like to be with members of the public body (trustees, etc)
 3. Electric car – let's work on getting one
- viii. "Climate Change" with Kent Taylor, *Tentative*: Sat. 7/29: 9:00 am (Liz)
 1. Community room has a larger screen room – Evie is checking for a projector
 2. Needs to be approved by mid-June for the newsletter
 3. Liz would like to do a write-up on the biodiesel use for the newsletter
- ix. "GROW Solar Chicagoland" with Marina Minic or Virtual, *Tentative*: August (Liz)
 1. We need to do it on the weekend, but can't use the township building at that time. Maybe we could get other surrounding municipalities to participate. Third or fourth week in August.
 2. They also have a video called ichooser – not as appealing
- x. "Reusa-Palooza" *Tentative*: Sat. 9/23 (LeeAnn)
 1. Evie – will reconfirm the dates, so we can add to newsletter.
 2. Eventbrite – Evie will have to ask if we can use it. It helps spread out the work among multiple people.
 3. Nikki to make sign ideas
- xi. "Tour de Proviso" *Tentative*: 10/7 (Lee)
 1. We handle registration and t-shirts
 - a. Nikki create tshirts? They have a logo and sponsors
 - b. Lee: There needs to be a sub-committee or a committee for the ride? Evie will talk with Dawn and Nick to learn what they have found out....Nick is trying to get templates and framework.

c. GROW Ordinance review (Evie)

- i. Address resident ordinance – we
- ii. Address attendance – Lee: Okay, as cause for dismissal. No mention of events, need words to encourage attendance at GROW events. Nicole: pause on events, increase meeting attendance ordinance. We ended up voting to keep it the same.

d. Village Comprehensive Plan (Lee)

- i. Evie – it is on the priority list. Need a capital plan (list of every asset that the village has), Community heart and soul to have a village plan.
- ii. Lee there are so many little projects and plan, but no big overarching plan to have what people want done. Lee: Structure for the redevelopment of the town, where are we going to have parks, what can we do with transportation (bike lanes), properties that are underutilized. Land use.

8. Current Fiscal Year Financial Report

- a. Budget: \$1,500 (GROW booth materials and community outreach events)
- b. Expended: \$135 (GROW banner and outside printing of July 4th GROW bookmarks)

- c. Commissioner Donations: \$243 (GROW event shirts, July 4th GROW signage, printing of GROW Solar Chicagoland leaflet event invites)
- d. Accrual: \$170 (Midwest Grows Green Speaker honorarium)
- e. Accrual: \$??? (Bicycle Event)

9. New Business

- a. MWRD Rain Barrels (Lee)
- b. Prairie and Native Plant Murals (Nikki)
 - i. Evie will check with Dawn, the bridges coming into town, some welcome signs
 - ii. Banners
 - iii. Diane: side of the food pantry
- c. Mosquito Abatement Alternatives (Nicole)
 - i. As a community for health and for efficiency, we can do it at a larve stage – mosquito dunks. Would like to see finds be transitioned to education and abatement of larvae. We can opt out...

10. 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.*

Diane: Metropolitan Planning Council has resources for a comprehensive plan, we need framework and goals

11. 2023 Goals: Community Education and Engagement

- a. Commissioner interests/participation
 - iii. Downs – Waste reduction, restoration, reduction in pesticide usage particularly to lawns
 - iv. Kaufman – Alternative transportation, energy, landscaping, land use (placemaking), community engagement for change and improvement
 - v. Kruszynski – Trash/waste, Trees, Flooding
 - vi. 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.
 - vii. Way – Marketing and education, reduce waste, costume swap, prairie celebration murals.
 - viii. Wiseman-Chase – Clean air, Clean energy, Climate Action Plan

12. 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.

Matt motions to adjourn, Lee seconds, all approve.

Adjourn 8:45 PM