



Village of Westchester

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GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting MINUTES

October 5, 2023 @ 6:30pm
Village Hall Board Room

Attending Commissioners: Matt Downs (MD), Liz Wiseman-Chase (LWC), LeeAnn Kruszynski (LAK), Lee Kaufman (LK), Nicole Molinaro (NM), Mariana Nicolae (MN)

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

Recorder: N. Molinaro

Absent: Steve Crowley, Nikki Way (NW)

Attending Residents: Diane Scott, (DS) Leann Pettis (LP)

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

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. Mariana Nicolae - "Sometimes there's too much water; sometimes not enough. A major challenge with global heating is that it doesn't necessarily cause more or less of something in a specific geographic area (hotter, colder; wetter, dryer); it just makes everything less predictable and often more extreme. Burning coal, oil, and gas — and disrupting or destroying natural carbon sinks like forests and wetlands — has affected the carbon cycle, heating the climate and changing the ways water flows in, on, and around the world". - By David Suzuki - David Suzuki Foundation, Vancouver, Canada
- b. Next Month: 11/2/23

4. Roll Call - Quorum established, 6 commissioners present, NW absent

5. Review of Minutes – Nicole Molinaro

- a. Approval of 9-7-23 minutes
LAK motions to approve, LK seconds - All Approved

6. 6:40 – Old Business

- a. Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution – Barry Krumstok (2 min.) - **VB approval last meeting, 2024 item to see come up.**
- b. Commissioner Appointment – Evie Slavic (2 min.) - **Welcome, email set-up**
- c. 2023 quarterly board reports for July - Nicole (3 min.) -
NM motions to approve, MD seconds - All Approved
- d. 2023 Planning Calendar – **6:50**
 - i. **Debrief:** "Reuse-a-Palooza" and Partner Events - 9/23 & 9/24 – LeeAnn Kruszynski (5 min.) **225 registered homes for event, different experience with**

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
MARIANA NICOLAE
NIKKI WAY
ELIZABETH WISEMAN-CHASE

marketing from homeowners. Signage was printed and was available Thursday before event. Some signage removed. More clear on signage strategy next year. Volunteers helpful, retool strategy for specific tasks vs monthly meeting. Partner events weren't attended very well, maybe the same day was issue, move to different date. 25 survey replies verses last years 100 replies. How to streamline event for next year. Village heard that people like it, calls from large signage.

- ii. "Tour de Proviso": 10/7 @ 7:30 am – Lee Kaufman (2 min.) - Nice cool sunny day for event. 442 participants with volunteers, 500 expected. Bike ride and vendor event afterwards. A bit larger as the 4th annual event. No early pick-up for t-shirts this year. CodeRed reminder on Friday and businesses were notified.
- iii. Tour de Proviso Table 10/7 @ 9:30 am "Learn to Compost" – Nicole (2 min.) - Need table. LAK to assist. Banners look amazing and BK printed out materials and have holders.
- iv. "Learn to Compost" Earth Hour at Library 10/19 @ 6:30 pm – Nicole (2 min.) - MN can assist with event. Send her details, will work on presentation.
- v. "Westchester Shred to Recycle" 10/21 @10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Evie (2 min.) - MWRD saplings and WFP donations, Saplings on higher table, At Enterprise Dr.
- vi. "Pumpkin Smash" 11/4/23 – Matt Downs (2 min) - Have fliers for event, Signage for event, update information on page, this is the 5th year - 3rd year as GROW. 2 locations this year. Sign on dumpster itself. Show up on day to take picture
- vii. December Newsletter due 11/10: Mariana water sustainability is residential areas
- e. Buckthorn Grant – LeeAnn (2 min.) - No go on buckthorn grant. Had great application that was stuck in bosses spam folder. Looking for other funding opportunities. Leverage mistake to have speaker for buckthorn event.
- f. Waste Management Contract Renewal – LeeAnn (2 min.) - Review of last years contract. Collected data from last year. Composting was an opt-in option during yard waste season. Action item to take a look and send to LAK.
- g. Christmas in Proviso for December otherwise Buckthorn education
- h. BK - Let Village know, Barry, well in advance for 2024 - Know where these events are in the flow with other intergovernmental events. Working document for 2024. Get events ready for 2024
- i. ES - One event a month - Wish list - Two Commissioners for each event
- j. MD- Cross over topics between commissioners
- k. LK - Ask Home Depot to take back gas and rebate for electric
- l. EWC - Check out LGP Sustainability website for example
- m. **7:00** - 2024 Goals/Planning Calendar –
 - i. Downs – Pumpkin Smash, Natural Lawn Care/Pesticide Use
 - ii. Kaufman – School Bicycling Event, Electric Lawn Care Closet
 - iii. Kruszynski – Tree Walk, Planting Demos, Research Arb.net, Arbor Day City Tree Growth Award, Reuse-a-palooza, Buckthorn content specialist, explore more robust website for GROW content
 - iv. Molinaro – Bee City USA, Composting, Natural Lawn Care Event, Quarterly Buckthorn Education, GROW School Education
 - v. Nicolae – Water Quality/Sustainability – Interface with Schools/Public Buildings in Westchester, Composting, Climate Change Awareness, School educational events
 - vi. Way – Club Mend, April/May – (5) Rain barrel Art, Costume Swap, Tree Walk
 - vii. Wiseman-Chase – !Climate Action Plan!, Indoor/Outdoor Air Pollution/Health, Incentives for Home Electric Appliances, Solar CS2/Group Buy, EV Car Show w/

Concert in the Park, Solar Walk Elmhurst is example IL Solar Education Solar Walk to encourage residents for outside, limit inside for Certificate Of Insurance.

8. Current Fiscal Year Financial Report – Evie

- a. Budget: \$1,500? April 30th Fiscal Year End
- b. Expended: \$170 (Midwest Grows Green Speaker honorarium)
- c. Accruals - \$371
 - i. Bicycle safety events organized by Police Department: \$
 - ii. July 4th parade bookmarks: \$
 - iii. Air pollution pamphlets from American Lung Association - \$75
 - iv. Reuse-a-Palooza signage - \$
 - v. Learn to compost educational display - \$
 - vi. Pumpkin smash banners - \$

9. New Business – 7:30

- a. December meeting date change – Evie (2 min.) - Change date due to Winter Wonderland - Tentatively December 5th @ 6:30 - firm up 2024 dates and events - BK Send us working document on 2024 - Calendar in newsletter
- b. Engagement on Climate Action: Climate Action Museum – Liz Wiseman-Chase (5 min.) Engagement on Climate Action, one of six museums in the world across from Union Station Chicago. One page included in material packet. Available to reserve time for a guided tour - to have some times scheduled for GROW, Community, Staff and Board members. Could take a bus to train for clean transportation. Doesn't need to go to board, a Meet and Greet Field Trip. and ETHELO Software - Community engagement platform, Canadian company to build consensus on climate action and comprehensive plan - May have consultant fees, Liz eligible for free software license. Breaks things down into different pieces, and options which is scrubbed by IP address. How can we engage community on deeper level. Recommendation to support Climate Action Plan (ES to discuss with BK)
- c. Next meeting agenda items

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.*

DS - FYI, Sign went up for sale by Hickory Lane again and marketing it saying previously approved for 300+ condo units. Advocate for green space in Westchester. EWC-Biden agenda for more green space deferred to 2025, CMAP website for 2030 re-worked program to provide additional land access/conservation for BIPOC communities - Westchester a 40% BIPOC community. DS-Just want to get ahead of this issue that isn't the first time this has brought up. Raising voices for green space, speak put in public and get organized.

11. 2023 Goals: Community Education and Engagement

- a. Commissioner interests/participation
 - viii. Downs – Waste reduction, restoration, reduction in pesticide usage particularly to lawns
 - ix. Kaufman – Alternative transportation, energy, landscaping, land use (placemaking), community engagement for change and improvement
 - x. Kruszynski – Trash/waste, Trees, Flooding

- xi. 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.
- xii. Nicolae - Water Quality/Sustainability – Interface with Schools and Public Buildings in Westchester
- xiii. Way – Marketing and education, reduce waste, costume swap, prairie celebration murals.
- xiv. Wiseman-Chase – Clean air, Clean energy, Climate Action Plan

12. Adjournment - 8:13pm LK motions to approve, NM 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.