



Village of Westchester

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

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting

MINUTES

November 2nd, 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), Nikki Way (NW)

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

Recorder: N. Molinaro

Absent: Steve Crowley

Attending Residents: Leann Pettis (LP)

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

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. Nicole Molinaro - "Don't not worry too much about your lawn. You will soon find if you haven't already that almost every adult American devotes tremendous time and money to the maintenance of an invasive plant species called turf grass that we can't eat. I encourage you to choose better obsessions." - John Green / 3 Life Lessons: 1) Be open to new experiences and perspectives, as well as the power of friendship and community 2) Importance of resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity, and how to find the joy in the little moments of life 3) Encourage critical thinking, ask questions and never stop learning and **GROWing**
- b. Next Month: Tuesday, 12-5-23: Annie C

4. Roll Call - Quorum established, 7 commissioners present - Milestone moment

5. Review of Minutes

- a. Approval of 10-5-23 minutes – Nicole
**EWC motions to approve with amended changes discussed,
LK seconds - All Approved**

6. Current Fiscal Year ending 4/30/23 Financial Report – Liz Wiseman-Chase - Typo on Fiscal Year to be 2024, \$877 expended - \$623 to utilize by 4/30 Fiscal Year End.

7. 6:40 – Old Business

- a. Waste Management Contract Renewal – LeeAnn Kruszynski - Nothing new to report. Will share data we've gathered and LAK available for questions during process.
- b. Club Mend – Nikki Way - Quarterly group on how to reuse/repurpose items. Start small with volunteers who can repair. Use community room here at Village. Consider combination of Earth Hours for consistent monthly group of education. Shooting for 1st Saturday of the month starting in February or March. Mostly hobbyist, not professionals. Use of waivers for event to address any liability. NW- Use of Club Mend and more gentle mending verses repair, more restoring used items. BK - Work with AC to get Restoration topics and date.
- c. December Newsletter Submission: Mariana Nicolae - Based on knowledge and experience in industry. Bring awareness to residents. Low flow toilet flush just as good as regular flush toilet.
 - i. Next Month, due December 10th: BK-Year in Review to include accomplishments from 2022 start. Seeing a snap shot on how we grew and developed. Nikki to handle January newsletter.
- d. 2023 Planning Calendar – 6:50
 - i. *Debrief:* "Tour de Proviso": 10/7 – Lee Kaufman - A little cold 370+ riders. Westchester took home bragging rights for most riders. One issue, corner of 22nd and LaGrange road, no signage and neglected. Keep in mind the difference paces of riders. Pretty successful showing. BK-Better structure in the long run. Village set up internal foundation this year so next year will be a bit smoother with logistics.
 - ii. *Debrief:* Tour de Proviso Table 10/7 "Learn to Compost" – Nicole - LAK and NM. EWC-Nice to promote GROW in that space. LAK-No handouts for residents to learn about GROW with business cards, back side of flyers, etc. Need better GROW marketing materials. ES-Use of generic GROW email on business cards.
 - iii. *Debrief:* "Learn to Compost" Earth Hour at Library 10/19 – Nicole - Compost template presentation will be ironed out for continued use when discussing topic in future. ES had some feedback and will connect with NM to finalize document.
 - iv. *Debrief:* "Westchester Shred to Recycle" 10/21 – Evie Slavic - LWC attended. Metal started a fire. Passed out 36 MWRD tree saplings. MWRD not there in person. ES-Stuffed bags with materials. WFP, \$500+ donations plus a ton of food donations. BK-Information and communication. NM-Get more involved with MWRD attending events and hosting Green Neighbor events.
 - v. "Pumpkin Smash" 11/4/23 – Matt Downs - Check out new banners, relatively new and each year gets bigger and bigger. WM donates dumpster. Time to meet up with pictures? Sunday Mayfair 10am and then Community Church. Do not Dump in Forest Preserves.
 - vi. January Newsletter due 12/10: Nikki, Year in Review since Feb 2022.

- e. **7:00 - 2024 Goals: Education and Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan** – EWC, Our ordinance includes producing nWestchester Climate Action Plan. ES-Write a Westchester specific Climate Action Plan with MMC and C4, more details in MMC document. - Liz, Mariana, and LeeAnn to assist along with other content from residents. Board Endorsement of MMC Climate Action Plan, what is moving forward with it? ES-Take concepts from MMC to build Westchester’s own CAP based on the regional one. EWC-Connect with AC. ES-GRC baseline will be completed now that staffing is situated.
- 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
- f. **2024 Planning Calendar**
- i. Engagement on Climate Action: Climate Action Museum Tentative Dates: 1/12/24, 2/16/24, 3/15/24 @2pm - Liz (5 min.) - EWC-Sent a chat to reserve space for museum field trip. Gather for discussion at end, how to get involved, how many slots available.
 - ii. “Buckthorn and Healthy Hedges” with Dave Coulter 1/17 or 1/18 @6:30pm – Nicole - Dec 10th newsletter event highlight, NM to complete. BK/AC to confirm date, NM obtain content. ES-Add Frank, Annie and Evie newsletter - Dave for website/FB content. Identify difference between blurb, event and content. Otherwise it’s left for interpretation. BK to assist with flyers along with Annie for printing and distribution.
 - iii. “Air Pollution and Your Health” with C. Patricia Macias-Huerta, MD, MPH and Liz – February - Will be a Saturday, will have bios and content for approval shortly.
 - iv. Discussion of 2024 Planning Calendar - Discuss more next month.

8. New Business – 7:30

- a. Illinois Electric Vehicle Charging Act effective 1/1/24 - Liz. 90 days after effective date, requirements for rental and condo units at owner expense. EV Capable and EV Ready, Annie to work with Jim on ordinances. Continue to send info to staff.
- b. Review process for submitting newsletter articles and events – Evie Discussed in previously in Old Business. Newsletter-Frank, Evie, Annie (GROW for preview) - Website/FB content-Dave Kosir - Flyers/Content Printing-Barry & Annie
- c. 2024 Meeting Dates - Nicole Consensus to keep as 1st Thursday of the month and only change when absolutely necessary. **LK Motion to Approve Dates as discussed, MK seconds - All**

9. **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 - Bags handed out, two different ones, people complained that flat bag cannot be used... but they can for paper, library books/magazines, grocery - City of Chicago now charging for bags plastic and paper.

MN-Not aware of remote attendance policy. NM to send out Remote Policy to Commissioners. Printing lots, could we print less?

10. Adjournment - 8:19pm 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.