



Village of Westchester

10300 ROOSEVELT ROAD, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

(708)345-0020 FAX (708)345-2873

WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG

Village President
NICK STEKER

Village Clerk
JENNIFER HALL

Trustees
TRACY JENNINGS
CATHY KURATKO
TRACY MARKEY
ROBERT MORALES
EVELYN SLAVIC

Village Manager
GREG HRIBAL

Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting

January 12, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge
3. Inspiration
 - a. Rob Orr
 - b. Next Month: 2/2/23
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.
6. **Review of Minutes**
 - a. Approval of 12-1-2022 minutes
7. **Old Business**
 - a. Waste Reduction
 - i. Reusa-Palooza (LeeAnn)
 - b. Tree Canopy (LeeAnn)
 - i. Update: CRTI Grant Opportunity for Tree Inventory (LeeAnn)
 - ii. Amendment to Illinois Exotic Weed Act: Buckthorn (Nicole)
 - c. FEMA (CRS) Community Rating System (Nicole)
 - i. Dig Right-In Update
 - ii. Natural Lawn Care Solutions for Flood Mitigation/Heat Island Reduction
 - d. Vehicle Sticker Contest: Nature in Westchester (Evie)
 - e. Climate Action Plan (Liz)
 - i. Nicor Energy Efficiency Events: Sat. 1/21 & Sun. 1/22: 9:00 am – 10:00 am
 - ii. Citizens Utility Board Solar for All Events (*for residents @ 80% of the mean income level for Cook County*): Tentative Dates: Sat. 3/25 & Sun. 3/26: 9:00 am – 10:00 am
 - iii. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution (CS2)
 - f. 2022 Board Report (Discussion)
 - g. 2023 Calendar (see working document attached)
8. **Financial Report (Diane)**
 - a. Budget (\$1,500 for GROW booth materials and community outreach events)
 - b. Expended (\$0)
 - c. Requests for reimbursement/accounting of out-of-pocket expenses incurred:

- i. Diane (GROW banner, outside printing of bookmarks)
- ii. Nicole (GROW event shirts)
- iii. Liz (July 4th GROW signage, outside printing of leaflet event invites)
- iv. *Other?*

9. New Business

- a. Recruitment of current and upcoming Commissioner Vacancies. (Evie)
- b. Transition Planning, Upcoming vacancy of Commissioner, Diane Scott (Diane)
 - i. New keeper of the banner
 - ii. Offer to create a new bookmark for 4th of July 2023 parade showing the 5 most common trees being planted
 - iii. Contact person for League of Women Voters LaGrange Area (LWVLGA) sustainability committee projects. (Meetings may be on Zoom and/or open to the public.) Their tentative plans for this year include:
 - 1. Feb - Lead Pipes (Krista?) introduces topic and local public works departments may present their plans for replacement
 - 2. Mar - Morton Arboretum presentation on tree equity. Michele to contact Arboretum staff in January
 - 3. Apr - Walk in Bemis on weekend of Earth Day (Apr 22) – Michele to coordinate
 - 4. May – Presentation on resources (solar, EV, etc) for IL residents – need one or more presenters.
- c. 2023 Goal(s) & Priorities
- d. Commissioner interests/participation
 - i. Downs – Waste reduction, restoration, reduction in pesticide usage particularly to lawns
 - ii. Kaufman – Alternative transportation, energy, landscaping, land use (placemaking), community engagement for change and improvement
 - iii. Kruszynski – Trash/waste, Trees, Flooding
 - iv. 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.
 - v. Wiseman-Chase – Clean air, Clean energy, Climate Action Plan
 - vi. Vacancy - seat previously held by Commissioner Jasmine Pope
 - vii. Vacancy - seat to be vacated by Commissioner Diane Scott

10. 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.