



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

October 5, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

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

1. 6:30 - Call to Order

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. Mariana Nicolae
- b. Next Month: 11/2/23

4. Roll Call

5. Review of Minutes – Nicole Molinaro

- a. Approval of 9-7-23 minutes

6. 6:40 – Old Business

- a. Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution – Barry Krumstok (2 min.)
- b. Commissioner Appointment – Evie Slavic (2 min.)
- c. 2023 quarterly board reports for July - Nicole (3 min.)
- d. 2023 Planning Calendar – **6:50**
 - i. *Debrief:* “Reuse-a-Palooza” and Partner Events - 9/23 & 9/24 – LeeAnn Kruszynski (5 min.)
 - ii. “Tour de Proviso”: 10/7 @ 7:30 am – Lee Kaufman (2 min.)
 - iii. Tour de Proviso Table 10/7 @ 9:30 am “Learn to Compost” – Nicole (2 min.)
 - iv. “Learn to Compost” Earth Hour at Library 10/19 @ 6:30 pm – Nicole (2 min.)
 - v. “Westchester Shred to Recycle” 10/21 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Evie (2 min.)
 - vi. “Pumpkin Smash” 11/4/23 – Matt Downs (2 min)
 - vii. December Newsletter due 11/10:
- e. Buckthorn Grant – LeeAnn (2 min.)
- f. Waste Management Contract Renewal – LeeAnn (2 min.)
- g. **7:00 - 2024 Goals/Planning Calendar –**
 - i. Downs – Pumpkin Smash
 - ii. Kaufman – School Bicycling Event
 - iii. Kruszynski –
 - iv. Molinaro – Bee City USA, Composting, Natural Lawn Care Event
 - v. Nicolae – Water Quality/Sustainability – Interface with Schools/Public Buildings in Westchester

- vi.** Way – Club Mend, April/May – Rain barrels, Costume Swap, Tree Walk
- vii.** Wiseman-Chase – Climate Action Plan, Indoor/Outdoor Air Pollution/Health, Incentives for Electric Appliances, Solar, EV Car Show, Solar Walk

8. Current Fiscal Year Financial Report – Evie

- a.** Budget: \$1,500?
- b.** Expended: \$170 (Midwest Grows Green Speaker honorarium)
- c.** Accruals -
 - 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.)
- b.** Engagement on Climate Action: Climate Action Museum and ETHELO Software – Liz Wiseman-Chase (5 min.)
- 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.*

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

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.