



Village of Westchester

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GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2024 @ 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
Administrative Services Coordinator
ANNIE CANAVAN
Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

Commissioners
LEE KAUFMAN
LEEANN KRUSZYNSKI
MARIANA NICOLAE
KARI ROBERG
NIKKI WAY
ELIZABETH WISEMAN-CHASE
WALTER WOJCIK

1. 6:30 - Call to Order

2. Pledge

3. Roll Call

- a. Attending Commissioners: LeeAnn Kruszynski, Mariana Nicolae, Kari Roberg, Nikki Way, Walt Wojcik
- b. Absent: Liz Wiseman-Chase, Lee Kaufman,
- c. Attending Staff Representative: Annie Canavan
- d. Attending Board Representative: Greg Hribal
- e. Attending Residents: Dianne Scott, Leann Pettis

4. Inspiration – Mariana Nicolae,

“There is an ancient Iroquois philosophy – The Seventh Generation Principle – that says decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world for seven generations into the future.

When it comes to the water, every kettle we boil, plastic bottle of water we purchase to drink, or bath or shower we take is a choice we make to use the planet's scarce resources. With regards to the Seventh Generation Principle, none of us wants to contribute to a water apocalypse for our children and grandchildren”.

Kerry Stackpole, CEO and Executive Director at Plumbing Manufacturing International

- a. Next Month – 11/7/24: LeeAnn

5. Review of Minutes – Nikki Way (5 min)

- a. Approval of 8/1/24 regular meeting minutes
- b. Approval of 9/5/24 regular meeting minutes
 - i. LeeAnn Pettis and Lee Ann – changes

Kari motions to approve, Walt seconds, and all approve.

6. Quarterly Reports (5 min)

- i. Second Quarter – Walt Wojcik
- ii. Third Quarter – Walt

Walt motions to approve second quarter Reports, Kari seconds, all approve

7. Updates from the Administrative Services Coordinator and Trustee Liaison – (10 min) Annie Canavan, Evie Slavic

- a. Community Energy Planning Grant - RFP status
Will be released within two weeks.
- b. GROW Proposals for Westchester Schools
 - i. Will speak with district 92 ½ and then invite GROW into the conversation.
- c. Tabling for Pumpkin Smash
 - i. Reaching out to ask Mariano's, Jewel, and Prairie House about tabling to promote Pumpkin Smash and composting.
- d. Buckthorn/Tree Planting Toolkit Grants
 - i. Village is planning to apply for Buckthorn Grant, will look at quotes related to servicing public property. Tree Planting grant is being vetted by Public Works, the village does contract for this work, so need to understand if will be useful.

8. Old Business (30 min)

Home Waste Reduction Resource – Kari (3 min)

- i) Will tie together the SCARCE event.
- b) Sustainable Purchasing Statement – Kari (3 min)
 - i) Updated with Liz's comments, SCARCE recommended the phrase “most responsible lowest bid.”

Nikki motions to put it forward to the board; Walt seconds, and all approve.

- c) Alternative Lawn Demonstration Plot – LeeAnn (3 min)
 - i) It could tie into the Buckthorn Grant and alternative vegetation for parkways. The village could explore turf alternatives, asking to leverage the Buckthorn plot to demonstrate to residents what is possible for low-maintenance vegetation. The village could donate a 3x10' strip by the community gazebo and fountain on Cermak and Mannheim.
- d) GRC Discussion Special Meeting – LeeAnn (3 min)
 - i) A large topic, will call a special meeting to dig into the GRC baseline to understand if it can be used for a sustainability report or shape the direction of GROW initiatives.
- e) PurpleAir Monitor – Liz (3 min)
 - i) Table – Liz absent
- f) Calendars (15 min)
 - i) Events
 - (1) September event debriefs (5 min)
 - (a) 9/19 Movie night: 21 people, was hoping for 100. Would like to actively engage people. Will consider a coffee meet up to discuss movies. Proposed “Time to Choose” as next movie, which focuses on the global problem. Discussed a giveaway with food (sample plant-based food). Liz also had a list of titles and suggested that we circulate a list of titles among the group, so we can create a line-up.

- (b) 9/21 Reuse-a-palooza: Good event, people promoted their own sales, the messaging worked.
- (2) Upcoming event support needs (5 min)
 - (a) 10/5 tree walk – needs megaphone.
- ii) Newsletter article ideas/support (5 min)
 - (1) November – 2 min
 - (a) Walt submitted
 - (2) December – 3 min
 - (a) Mariana – “Forever chemicals and water quality”
- 8. New Business (6 min)**
 - a. GROW Holiday Event – Walt (3 min)
 - A. Bethany Alexander could bring food for new catering business. Mariana suggested that we have everyone bring a dish.
 - b. OneEarth Film Festival – Walt (3 min)
 - A. The organizers want 100 people, and charge \$600 for the film. Not sure that we would get 100 people, even though movies seem interesting. Week in April, must commit by December. They discussed partnering with different communities. Various suggestions for partnerships with Lagrange, Elmhurst. Walt will check in with Go Green LaGrange

9. Comments (5 min)

- a. Commission Comments
 - A. Mariana attended a webinar with EPA on forever chemicals. There are over 9,000 chemicals, and even newborns have the chemicals in their body. The chemicals are included in virtually everything. There are ways to test, the federal government is looking to complete an analysis to enforce the ban of chemicals. Discussion about plastic and its impacts.
 - B. Walt promoted an electric car show.
 - C. Kari – Need a parking lot for SCARCE collection event.
- b. Staff/Board Comments
 - A. Name tags and business cards will be available next meeting
 - B. Shred event coming up
 - C. MWRD – Sustainability summit at Stickney Auditorium to talk about their initiatives and sustainable landscaping.
 - D. Greg: Trustee Vann is interested in C4, wants to know how GROW and C4 will work together. She would like a greater roadmap. Suggested that we work together. Greg has also been looking for a roadmap, how to bring to scale, how to find grants. Greg has mentioned that there has been some exploration. Kari suggested we tag C4 to the GRC special meeting.

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.*

- 1) Dianne Scott: League of Women Voters of La Grange is sponsoring a program on stormwater management and assessment. How do we share the cost fairly? Will look at the stormwater utility

fee to equitably assess the cost of runoff and then help the village pay for stormwater initiatives.
Tuesday, October 8 from 7 - 8:30PM.

- 2) Leann Pettis - Mayfair is \$125 an hour (responding to question about rentals earlier in the meeting).

Nikki motions to adjourn, Kari seconds, all approve.

Adjourn 7:38 PM

11. 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.

2024 Planning Calendar		
Event	Organizer	Date
<i>Prairie Fest</i>	<i>Liz</i>	<i>September 7</i>
<i>Movie Screening: "Climate Change: The Facts"</i>	<i>Walt</i>	<i>September 19th</i>
<i>Reuse-a-Palooza</i>	<i>LeeAnn</i>	<i>September 21/22</i>
<i>Tree Walk</i>	<i>LeeAnn</i>	<i>October 5th</i>
<i>Proposed: Pumpkin Smash Tabling</i>	<i>Liz</i>	<i>Various dates in October</i>
<i>Pumpkin Smash</i>	<i>Kari</i>	<i>November 2 and 3rd</i>
<i>Food Pantry Tabling</i>	<i>Walt</i>	<i>November XX</i>

2025 Planning Calendar		
Event	Organizer	Date
Proposed: Indoor Air Quality (YouTube)	Liz	January 2025
Solar Event with CUB	Liz	Spring 2025
Waste Collection with SCARCE	Kari	Spring 2025
Bike Safety Event "Safe Streets for All"	Nikki/Lee	Spring 2025
Guided Tour of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	Mariana	Spring 2025
Climate Action Event	Walt	Spring/Summer 2025
Home Electrification (w/ Incentives for Electrical Appliances Article)	Liz	Spring/Summer 2025

Newsletter Calendar

Month	Article Topic	Author
Monthly	Plant Based Recipes	Kari
November	Healthy Diet, Healthy Planet	Walt
December	TBD	TBD
January 2025	Proposed: Indoor Air Quality	Liz

2024 Goals: Education and Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan

Lee Kaufman	School Bicycling Event, Electric Powered Equipment for Natural Lawn Care
LeeAnn Kruszynski	Urban Forestry, Reusa Palooza, Climate Action
Mariana Nicolae	Water Quality/Sustainability, Composting, Climate Change Awareness
Kari Roberg	Zero Waste, Connection to Nature, Climate Action
Nikki Way	Reusa Palooza, Commission Marketing support, Green infrastructure/solar/rain and native garden/ecological interest walk, painted rain barrels
Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase	Climate Action Plan, Air Pollution/Health, Incentives for Electric Appliances, Solar Education
Walter Wojcik	Climate Action, Electric Vehicles, EV Car Show