



# Village of Westchester

## GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting

June 2, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

Village President  
NICK STEKER

Village Clerk  
JENNIFER HALL

Trustees  
TRACY JENNINGS  
CATHY KURATKO  
TRACY MARKEY  
ROBERT MORALES  
EVELYN SLAVIC

Village Manager  
GREG HRIBAL

### 1. Call to Order

### 2. Pledge

### 3. Inspiration

- a. L. Kruszynski
- b. Next Month:

### 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 5-12-22 minutes

### 7. New Business

- a. *Discussion/Update*: LeeAnn - Community-Wide Yard Sale on September 17, 2022
- b. *Discussion/Update*: Diane - House State Rep. Ann Williams, Head of Energy&Enviro Committee
- c. *Data Discussion*: Liz/Nicole - Proposed Municipal Resolution Endorsing the 2021 Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region - "Climate Action Plan Template Resolution for Municipalities"
- d. *Opportunity*: Liz - For Village to apply for participation in Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Solar Clearinghouse (end date for application 8/31/22)
- e. *Opportunity*: Liz - For residents to participate in GROW SOLAR CHICAGOLAND (end date to enroll 9/30/22)
- f. *Opportunity*: Liz - Electric vehicle acquisitions as part of municipal fleets
  - i. i.e. Police vetting and acquisition of Mustang Mach-E
- g. *Discussion*: Recycling, Reuse, Repurpose education
- h. *Resident Engagement*: 6/9 @ 6p HighRidge Park Public Input Meeting/Improvements/Vote on Fav
- i. *Discussion*: "Conservation at Home" Val Kehoe (Upcoming newsletter article)
  - i. <https://fpdcc.com/nature/conservationathome/>
  - ii. School Application available <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23073>
  - iii. Field Trips: <https://www.theconservationfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-MDF-Programs.pdf>
  - iv. <https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/> "The Illinois Green Schools Project brings together students, teachers, and staff to collaborate in a year-long project-based challenge to devise and implement creative no-to low-cost sustainable practices." Late summer is when it looks like the application opens back up again.

## 8. Old Business

- a. *Status* - Open Meeting Act Due w/i 90 days - OMA Training, all commissioners
- b. LeeAnn/Matt - Facebook Page / Email Blasts
- c. Special Meetings - 2 day notice
- d. Brainstorming Sub-committees:
- e. 2022 Goal & Priority: **Community Outreach & Engagement**
  - i. *Specific priorities more clear once GRC graded.*
  - ii. Research and education our individual passions, culminating in a community outreach event/ educational program/presentation or Zoom to engage on topic
  - iii. *Discussion:* Survey to identify community interests
  - iv. *Discussion:* Possible small quick-win projects
- f. Matt - Citizens for Conservation - Native Plants for Seeds
  - i. QR Code + URL to the link for application in the Westchester Newsletter
- g. Continuous *Discussion:* Tree Canopy Replenishment
  - i. **Education on trees and natives, donut, not volcano**
  - ii. IDNR – grants to hire for a tree inventory, and other opportunities for planting funding.
    1. Canopy Counts – (<https://chicagorti.org/program/canopy-counts/>)
    2. <https://www.itreetools.org/>
    3. <https://treeequityscore.org>
  - iii. Door hangers
  - iv. Continuous *Discussion:* Continuum of iNaturalist Event “Everyday Is A Nature Day” - WRP, Park District, Library, Public Works, Resources & Community
- h. Waste Management Expectations
  - i. Evie - Copy of Contract on radar
- i. Continuous *Discussion:* Healthy Waterways w/MWRD
- j. Budgeted Items
  - i. #1 – Obtain scoring of MMC-GRC from the Village
  - ii. #2 – 1 hour per month with Scott Russell or designee Steve Crowley
  - iii. #3 — \$1,500 for GROW booth materials at community outreach events.
  - iv. #4 – T-shirts for commission members
  - v. Additional funding opportunities: Proviso Township,
- k. Quarterly Report - Due April
  - i. **“forthcoming”**
- l. Call for Agenda Items 7 - 10 days prior to next meeting – All

## 9. Information Only (*GROW Upcoming Meetings: 7/7, 8/4, 9/1, 10/6, 11/3 & 12/1*)

### a. Upcoming Events

- i. Environmental/Educational Events
  1. Future Events:
    - a. MWRD, Ann Williams, Lydia Scott, Val Kehoe, FPDCC, Library, Park District, Proviso Township,
  - ii. Raised 54% more than last year @ \$2,412 for Pantry (5/14 GGG Plant Sale)
  - iii. 6/16 @ 12:30p - Library West Prairie Ribbon Cutting Event
  - iv. 7/4 @ 10am - Fourth of July Parade
  - v. 7/23 GGG Garden Walk @ 9a-1p
  - vi. Compost Week. Added to Go Green Westchester. Continued conversation/education.
    1. May 1 – 7, 2022 INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK (ICAW)
    2. <https://www.compostfoundation.org/ICAW/ICAW-Home>
    3. <https://porch.com/advice/creating-composting-system>
    4. More resources: <https://www.compostfoundation.org/Educa.../Compost-Resources>

**b. Monthly Newsletter (DUE 15th of prior month)**

- i. **June - (Diane) Native Gardening & Prairie Plants (Library Ribbon Cutting) - Due 5/15**
- ii. July - (Lee/Nicole) Conservation @ Home
- iii. August - (Liz) Solar
- iv. September -
- v. October -
- vi. November -
- vii. December -

**c. Park District Meetings @ 7pm**

- i. 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14 & 12/12

**d. Village Board Meetings @ 6pm**

- i. 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/22, 12/13&12/27

**e. Economic Development Committee @ 7:30am**

- i. 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14 & 12/12

**f. Library @ 7pm - CoW 2nd Monday / Reg 4th Monday (Dec 3rd Monday)**

- i. To attend virtually contact Library Director Fidencio Marbella at [fidenciom@westchesterpl.org](mailto:fidenciom@westchesterpl.org) / 708-562-3573
- ii. Trustee Vacancy Deadline 5/20/22 @ 3pm <https://westchesterpl.org/8413-2/>

**g. Grassroots Garden Group Meetings @ 6:30pm**

- i. 6/27, 7/25, 8/29, 9/26 & 10/24

**h. Commissioner Leads (Liaison to engage both sides and needs)**

- i. Public Works
- ii. MWRD -
- iii. Plan & Zoning-
- iv. Retail/Industrial-
- v. Park District-
- vi. Library -
- vii. Westchester Schools Dist. 92.5-
- viii. High School Dist. 209-
- ix. Wolf Road Prairie-
- x. IL Extension -
- xi. FPDCC -
- xii. MMC EC - Liz
- xiii. FEMA CRS -
- xiv. Waste Management-
- xv. EDC -

**i. QR Codes - Future Content/Engagement**

## 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. Any one 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.