



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

May 12, 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

Acting Village Manager
GREG HRIBAL

Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. L. Kaufman
- 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 4-7-22 minutes

7. New Business

- a. LeeAnn - Community-Wide Yard Sale for Fall 2022
- b. Nicole - 2021 Tree City USA Proclamation / School Event 4/29
 - i. (<https://www.arborday.org/celebrate/documents/proclamation.pdf>)
- c. Nicole - Endorsing the 2021 Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region - see attached "Climate Action Plan Template Resolution for Municipalities"
- d. Nicole - "Conservation at Home" Val Kehoe
 - 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. All - Open Meeting Act - OMA Training, all commissioners
 - i. Goal: to do training by next Grow Meeting.
- b. LeeAnn/Matt - Facebook Page / Email Blasts
- c. Special Meetings - 2 day notice

- d. Brainstorming Sub-committees:
- e. GROW ordinance roles and responsibilities
 - i. Our purpose to advise and educate the community to improve the environment in the community and surrounding communities.
- f. 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. Survey for the community?
 - iv. Possible small quick-win projects:
- g. Matt - Citizens for Conservation - Native Plants for Seeds
 - i. QR Code + URL to the link for application in the Westchester Newsletter
- h. 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/>)
(App: <https://www.curio.xyz/about>)
 - 2. <https://www.itreetools.org/>
 - 3. <https://treeequityscore.org>
 - iii. Door hangers
- i. Waste Management Expectations
 - i. Evie - Copy of Contract?
- 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:
 - 1. Proviso Township Services: Lorenzo B. Webber, Director of Youth Services”
(<https://provisotownship.com/services/youth-services/>)
- k. Quarterly Report - Due April
 - i. See attached **“forthcoming”**
- l. Call for Agenda Items 7 - 10 days prior to next meeting – All

9. Information Only (*GROW Upcoming Meetings: 6/2, 7/7, 8/4, 9/1, 10/6, 11/3 & 12/1*)

- a. **Upcoming Events**
 - i. Arboretum Centennial – LeeAnn
 - 1. Future Events:
 - ii. Discussion: 4/23 Shredding Event MWRD
 - iii. Discussion: Continuum of iNaturalist Event “Everyday Is A Nature Day” - WRP, Park District & Library
 - iv. 5/14 Grassroots Garden Group Plant Sale
 - v. 6/16 @ 12:30p - Library West Prairie Ribbon Cutting Event
 - vi. 7/23 GGG Garden Walk 9-1
 - vii. 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. May - (LeeAnn) Tree Care CRTI
- ii. **June - (Diane) Native Gardening & Prairie Plants (Library Ribbon Cutting) - Due 5/15**
- iii. July -
- iv. August -
- v. September -
- vi. October -
- vii. November -
- viii. December -

c. Park District Meetings @ 7pm

- i. 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14 & 12/12

d. Village Board Meetings @ 6pm

- i. 5/10, 5/24, 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. 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14 & 12/12

f. Library @ evenings

- i. To attend virtually contact Library Director Fidencio Marbella at 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. 5/23, 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 GRC -**
- 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.