



Village of Westchester

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ROBERT MORALES
EVELYN SLAVIC

Village Manager
GREG HRIBAL

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting

July 7, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

1. Call to Order @ 6:41pm

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. D. Scott - Mountains of the Minds
- b. Next Month: L. W-Chase

4. Roll Call

Commissioners: Liz Wiseman-Chase, Lee Kaufman, Nicole Molinaro, Matt Downs, Diane Scott, LeeAnn Kruszynski (Phone), Evie Slavic (VB) **Recorder:** N. Molinaro (Absent: Jasmine Pope, Steve Crowley PW) & Nikki Way)

Residents: James Lewandowski, Leann Pettis & Moses Troyer

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.

- a. No comments

6. Review of Minutes

- a. Approval of 6-2-22 minutes - Via Email Approval with last minute sharing

7. New Business

- a. *Discussion:* Tree City USA - Tree Board formation (Nicole)
 - i. LeeAnn colleague to share information on municipal formation of tree board. Lee, son-in-law member of tree boards and may have information or join us at next meeting. To be completed by next year, would like to have complete by end of year. What does GROW involvement look like? Could it be GROW? Steve must be included. Smaller tree board size, 3-5. The fulfillment of Arbor Day requirements have been met though expectations can be increased which is what Library's grant folks, America in Bloom, challenged us to meet higher standards. Opening up to residents and know more tree people. We have the expertise in-house. After meeting resident Jim would like to be a part of Tree Board and may know others. Signature potted plants, community engagement and asset is our passionate people. Increasing pool of eco allies. Tree specific board to focus on trees only and better planting engagement with residents. Residents and business owners in tree care/board. Tree inventory and planting maps and species. Get more residents involved. Have a responsibility to the community, how many amazing trees on St. Joe's property with many varieties of trees in just a small portion closest to our intermediate school. LeeAnn touch base with colleague. Evie to have Greg & Steve check-in. Steve wearing two hats.

- b. *Discussion:* - C4 Memo Of Understanding (MOU) & Proposed Municipal Endorsement - “Climate Action Plan Template Resolution for Municipalities” (Liz/Nicole)
 - i. Nick signed MOU for C4 and went hand-in-hand with Climate Action Plan Resolution. Other nearby Broadview, Brookfield, Northlake, River Forest have signed both. Urban Efficiency Group and Seven Generations Ahead partners with C4. Not taking resources, included in GRC. Demonstrate leadership by signing endorsement mentioned and work to get more solar initiative and EV replacement - year one plan. \$1,200 for charging components (\$600 for each). Grant resources for charging stations. EV Accelerators group for more data. Sit down with municipal partners. Increased resources with a municipal grant writer which includes GROW.
- c. *Discussion:* September Native Plant Sale – Pop Up Event @ Community Church (Evie)
 - i. With Dave from I Love Plants, should be planting natives in fall conversation. Sells plants in Berwyn area and looking to connect with other like-minded green folks. Same weekend or different weekend as yard sale? Dave very knowledgeable of plants and helpful in teaching newbies. Longer pots for longer root system. Should keep separate. Village is good with sale. Could have in October also. Have enough plants for sale, number of plants? Include MWRD and include EQ compost. Keep focus on native plants and separate yard sale. Everyone able to participate more if separate. Fall Shredding event and have plant sale down near Camberley Park on exist. Parking is bad nearby. Could be a good flow to combine with shredding event? Reach out to MWRD, Nicole/Evie.
- d. *Discussion:* Village Ordinances: Native Garden Lawn Alternatives, Noxious Weeds (Diane)
 - i. When writing article looked at village code to see what a weed is and looked at other villages. Diane wants to review and update code to meet our more ecological needs and looking at milkweed as a noxious weed. No dead line something for maybe next years season. Where are other communities at? Gather the data. Jim asked which species, as common milkweed considered noxious verses other varieties. Weed is a plant out of place is definition. How you want to use the plant is what is the problem. Proper placement is important. Nurseries re-establishing varieties of milkweed. Involuntary spreading of weeds.
- e. *Discussion:* Point of Contact and Communication re: Service Line Warranties (Diane)
 - i. GROW related and a sore point as we get the mailings and we toss them and then spend money replacing and not know about the warranty most would have been covered and not out of pocket. Article in newsletter based on personal experience from Diane. Conversation with Leann (resident) regarding complete collapse verses partial collapse, usable. Use of white drain and have both sewer and water line. Diane to connect with Leann on her experience. Send a bolo out to local plumbers to see who wants to take the job. Make sure not promoting individual businesses, Evie to check. Coverage and experience is important and may be part of village already as it does have the seal on it as Moses pointed out. No deadline, in Public Works section or elsewhere, not in GROW.
- f. *Discussion:* Jan.'22 - IL Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act – Action Plan (Diane)
 - i. Presentation from The League of Women’s Voters in LaGrange regarding an Act passed January 1, 2022 requires the village to make an inventory of and develop a replacement program for lead water service lines owned by village and private property owners. Congress outlawed lead pipes in 1986 but allowed in ground to remain. Illinois believed to have most lead water service lines in the US and people of color twice as likely to live in areas with lead service lines. Environmental equity aspect to consider. Village files with IL EPA yearly, village has 7,182 total water service pipelines with estimated 3,663 lead service lines. Maybe newer construction as well as replaced. Public Works keeps track of pipes and reports given to Trustees. Cost to replace \$15-\$26k per water line which would be \$55 million to replace half of the lead water lines. Timeline is village take service lines material inventory with preliminary inventory due by April 15, 2023. Final inventory by April 15, 202. Should have

good idea of what pipelines we have with street and sewer work being completed now. Evie to touch base with Steve. LaGrange Park has program: <http://www.lagrangepark.org/555/Lead-Service-Line-Replacement> Interactive Tool to find out if you have lead pipes: <https://apps.npr.org/find-lead-pipes-in-your-home/en/#intro>. Find out if our village eligible for state or federal funding to assist in replacement of lead water service lines. Need a Final Plan for replacement and how we will pay by 2027. How are we financing replacement, bond offering, add to water bill, loan? Buffalo box conversation regarding who is responsible in replacing and where it is. Ask Steve how aware and any existing plans. Must consider in 5 year plan for village. 17 years to replace but do you want to wait that long to replace.

- g. Westchatter – (Nicole) Good opportunity to engage in podcast, with each of our specialties and also include resident interviews. Q&A, get kids involved. Is Gia interested environmental conversations and advertise events? Shouldn't be a problem since its topic driven not commission specific. Very new though on Spotify and other Podcast apps so unsure of reach to community. Working with Brookfield company and dependent of how much we promote. Very new and how many people listen to podcast? Moses (resident) listens to podcast though most of us do not. Purpose of podcast, is it current issues, for Westchester, what type of podcast or content? Moses, does village have a YouTube channel? Would love to have an Ecological YouTube, college was mostly learning from YouTube and Moses watches more YouTube. Find out more about the podcast.
<https://open.spotify.com/show/1qnnK5g9ViLvJmo81mrjBI?si=gtGGPg4WTtlqQTIRNZWBg>
- h. Discussion: Biking/Walking/Outdoor Activities (Nicole) If we saw something on Facebook we would support and promote. For example the biking group at fountain Saturday at 9am.
- i. Discussion: Comprehensive Development Plan (Lee) Deeper dive and put out there big overarching issues regarding what is going on in town. Necessary for us as a commission and as residents make suggestions to Board. There will be a new plan and was recommended to look at Community Heart and Soul Grant Seed Program <https://www.communityheartandsoul.org/> to build an ongoing village philosophy around a resident-driven process with 3 principles to Involve Everyone, Focus on What Matters and Play the Long Game. Community Heart & Soul does address Comprehensive Plan. What does the majority want and what is possible from market as well as land characteristics. Should be updated and reviewed every 5 years per Evie and include commission and residents.
- j. Depave Chicago (Lee) Defer to next month
<https://www.depavechicago.org/>
- k. *Community Outreach*: GROW presence at businesses / table set-up / environmental education QR Opportunities to sit out and get into community to talk about the Public Body we have
- l. *Discussion*: Commissioner Leads/Interests: (Public Works, MWRD, Plan & Zoning, Retail/Industrial, Park District, Library, Westchester School Dist. 92.5, High School Dist 209, Wolf Road Prairie, IL Extension, FPDC, MMC-EC (Liz), FEMA CRS, Waste Mgmt., EDC) What are individuals interested in?

8. Old Business

- a. *Status* - Open Meeting Act Due w/in 90 days - OMA Training, all commissioners Some difficulties for one will be addressed by next month.
- b. *Status* - Village consideration re: participation in Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Solar Clearinghouse (end date for application 8/31/22) - Evie Any updates and let Liz know if assistance is needed. In works.
- h. *Status* – Budget request Confirmed budget request
 - 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

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

a. 2022 Goal & Priority: Community Outreach & Engagement

h. Events

i. Environmental/Educational Events

1. Upcoming Events:

- a. 7/11 Plan and Zoning St. Joes meeting Noted - Liz wanted to comment regarding discovering of information on vehicles going in and out of proposed facility.
- b. 7/23 GGG Garden Walk @ 9a-1p Noted
- c. 8/27 & 8/28 @ 9am *Opportunity*: Liz - Grow Solar Power Hour by Citizens Utility Board (CUB) and MW Renewable Energy Association (MREA) sponsored by GROW EC Noted 1st educational event, tax credit and rebate for solar on roof and group purchasing discounts. Clean energy and renewable information all set-up and article too. Village FB page get on. Village website too. Only Sat/Sun Power Hour in area with same presentation (most on T/W/Th), one or the other.
- d. 9/17 *Update*: LeeAnn – Village Giveaway/Community-Wide Yard Sale sponsored by GROW EC
 - i. No special pick-ups, recycling/repurpose, keep in use longer, neighbors helping neighbors. LeeAnn connected with Brookfield organizers. Facebook event page for FAQ, etc. Dedicated email for questions regarding this matter. Evie to check into FB event and email. Get in touch with Canterbury Sale woman. Then we promote. August newsletter blurb. Liz on Solar. Must go into Aug to Save the Date? Evie to ask if Melissa if we can have additional spotlight for this event. What to call event? Moved to email brainstorm. Decided on Reusa-Palooza. 300 houses that registered with others that set-up day of. Majority of help needed prior to event on front end. Big push two weeks leading to event, 5 hours per week. Google Map help from Nicole. Advertising and LeeAnn to reach out for any additional meetings. communitysale@westchester-il.org email set-up and additional ad did make deadline for paper.
- e. *Update*: Diane - House Rep. Ann Williams, Energy&Enviro Committee
- f. MWRD, Lydia Scott, Val Kehoe, FPDCC, Library, Park Dist. Proviso Twsp

i. Monthly Newsletter (DUE 15th of prior month)

- ii. July - (Lee/Nicole) Conservation @ Home
- iii. August - (Liz) Solar
- iv. September - (LeeAnn/Lee) Yard Sale/Recycling - Native Plant Sale/Educational Event
- v. October -
- vi. November -
- vii. December –

Evie is excited and impressed and wanted to say it officially with all the work and we thanked her for the support.

10. Adjournment @ 8:08pm Kaufman motions to adjourn and Scott seconds

Community Calendar

a. Park District Meetings @ 7pm

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

b. 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

c. Economic Development Committee @ 7:30am

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

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

- i. To attend virtually contact Library Director Fidencio Marbella at
fidenciom@westchesterpl.org / 708-562-3573

e. Grassroots Garden Group Meetings @ 6:30pm

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