



Village of Westchester

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Village Manager
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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

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting MINUTES

April 4th, 2024 @ 6:30pm
Village Hall Board Room

Attending Commissioners: Liz Wiseman-Chase (LWC), LeeAnn Kruszynski (LAK), Lee Kaufman (LK), Nikki Way (NW), Walt Wojcik (WW), Kari Roberg (KR),

Mariana Nicolae (MN) **remote

Village Representation: Annie Canavan (AC), Evie Slavic (ES)

Recorder: N. Molinaro

Absent::

Attending Resident: Leann Pettis (LP). Fred Franzwa (FF), Diane Scott (DS), Jeanne Keane (JK)

1. **6:30 - Call to Order – 6:34 pm**

2. **Pledge**

3. **Inspiration**

- a. Walt Wojcik – **IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A LEADER.– John Quincy Adam**
- b. Next Month: 5/2/24 – **Kari Roberg**

4. **Roll Call - Quorum established, 6 commissioners present – **Motion to allow remote participation of Mariana Nicolae – LAK motions to approve, WW seconds - All Approved – 6:36 pm - 7 commissioners present**

5. **Welcome to Kari Roberg and Thank You to Nicole Molinaro – 5 min.**

- a. Succession Planning: Minutes and Quarterly Reports – **Minutes, can record meetings if a commissioner to refer to. Nikki will handle moving forward. Quarterly Reports, Nikki to also handle and Walt to assist next Quarter. NM to help out on hand off.**

6. Review of Minutes – Nicole

- a. Approval of 3-7-24 regular meeting minutes
- Approval of 3-21-24 special meeting minutes

VOTE: LK motions to approve, KR seconds - All Approved

7. Fiscal Year ending 4/30/24 Financial Report – Liz W-Chase –2 min. – March 31, 2024 \$575 left, with pending approval of PurpleAir \$379.xx, \$195.74 left in fund.

8. 6:45 - Old Business

- a. 2024 Newsletter Calendar – ES - Onboarding and Offboarding Standard Operating Procedures, Social Media Policy, Ethics, Remote Policy, Ordinance, Meeting Protocol/Flow Chart, etc. Newsletter, guidelines, and purpose – to educate and encourage the adoption of green infrastructure. WW-Newsletter, a word limit? ES - People don't read things that are too long, something to consider. The less wordy, the better, or residents won't read. AC – Up to two pages will fit on one newsletter page. LWC – May is also Air Pollution Awareness Week.
 - i. May Newsletter Submission due 4/10/24:
 - 1. "Solutions to Westchester's Air Pollution"- Liz - 1 min. – Primary article
 - 2. "No Mow May" Blurb– LeeAnn Kruszynski – 1 min. – Bullet points, short with graphic
 - 3. "Save the Date: Tree Walk" - LeeAnn – 1 min. – LAK – Date not set in stone, has blurb prepared. Move to a Fall date. ES – Early October.
 - ii. June Newsletter Submission due 5/10/24 "Electric Vehicles" – Walt – 1 min. – WW – Sent LWC article to review.
 - iii. *Proposed:* "Meatless Meals" - Walt – 1 min. – WW – Food waste, certain foods big environmental impact. LK – Maybe target restaurants versus residents. KR – What is growing locally? ES – Grilling options. WW – Meatless meal cooked by a chef. LK/WW to put together a proposal. ES – Village Two-Day event, have the chef? NM – Encourage Meatless Mondays? LWC – Science of Spirituality has classes. KR – Resource of people going vegetarian.
- b. 2024 Planning Calendar
 - i. *Debrief* "Climate Action Museum Guided Tour" 3/15th @2pm - Liz – 2 min. – LWC – February event canceled. 19 people signed up for March, and 14 attended. Most took the train. Good turnout, off sight. ES – Something to repeat? One staff and one trustee attended. Recycling center tour, with new waste contract. NW – MWRD tour as well. LWC – Have signup available. LK – Open 6 days a week 10a-6pm, Climate Action Plan. AC-Add e-news blurb to webpage.
 - ii. Tree Walk and Planting Demo – May 18th – LeeAnn – 2 min. - MN – Tree Demo too? AC – Tree Planting at Arbor Day Celebration, April 19th at WIS. Anyone want to speak at school? LAK to consider.

- iii. Independence Day Parade Participation – Liz – 3 min. – 3rd year, ideas? Last year, EV car show last year with Cycle Group. Diane completed bookmarks and handouts. LAK – Marinate on this and come up with ideas. ES – Email suggestions to LAK.
 - c. Greenest Region Compact Baseline – Liz – 3 min.
 - i. Sustainability Report and Opportunity Identification – When GROW started we asked for a scoring baseline. Would like to move forward. Foundation of sustainability report to showcase what the village has done. LAK – So GROW has data and how to partner and move forward on education. LWC – Scoring should be quick. ES – Will get this started in bite-size and some overlapping of topics. On radar, ES/AC action item. LK – 10 different sections.

8. 7:05 – Updates from the Administrative Services Coordinator and Trustee Liaison – Annie Canavan, Evie Slavic

- A. No Mow May (‘til Mother’s Day) – Tuesday for a vote – NM – Could add March and April No Mow
- B. Concerts in the Park / EV Car Show – AC - Another meeting Monday with Park Dist. – August at Mayfair LWC – GROW have table?
- C. Education in Schools Proposals – ES – Received proposals, need more info. WW – Extra credit for 8th graders with parent, host it here, need wi-fi. ES – check into logistics. LK – On local call last week and Superintendent on call.
- D. Sidewalk data (# squares shaved v replaced) – AC – 2,500 sq replaced, 416 ground
- E. Native Plants/Alleys – ES – Always water in the alleys, property between alley and private, knowing plants absorb water. Encourage residents to plant natives in their alleyways to look better and aid in flooding. As long as it is maintained, it’s okay. MN – Low point with flooding area, line guys trample within an easement. Lots of wild animals in the area, and vegetation would be a good ground to navigate.

9. 7:25 - New Business –

- a. Community movie proposals – Walt- 3 min – List of movies and Library has movie nights. Climate month has a bunch of movie suggestions. ES – Summer break opportunity. Staff to ask the Library.
- b. Climate-friendly diets – Walt – 3 min – Draft for June newsletter to include. Local food initiative. Health reasons to reduce or remove.
- c. *Carbon calculator* – Walt - 3 min. – Try to complete their own calculation. Natural Conservancy calculator. 60154 – 60 tons of carbon for the year. ES – Email the group, need 20 minutes to complete.
- d. Tabling Opportunities – Liz – 3 min. – Time and effort into presentations and at most 25 people. Meeting people where they are, having a table at events already happening. Interact with the community and engage topics supported by the Commission. List of opportunities and set up a table. ES – To get list and dates of events to GROW and would need to assign topics if any.

- e. Proclamation for National Air Quality Awareness Week (May 6-10) - Liz – 3 min. – Identifies different air quality topics, World Asthma Day, and Air Quality issues. Submit proclamation to Board.

VOTE: LAK motions to approve, KR seconds to request Proclamation for National Air Quality Awareness Week (May 6-10) - All Approved

- f. Inclusion of community members in GROW activities – Liz – 3 min – Three graduates of the Commission, would like to see how to tap into resources within the community. ES – Other than content approval, no restrictions. Anyone can volunteer. Knowledge to share to encourage residents to participate in events without being part of the Commission.

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 pm, please limit your comments to 3 minutes in length, unless further time is granted by the Commission.*

DS – Hickory Lane and green space important and will work to preserve this space. Salt Creek Clean-Up – LWV, presentation at Brookfield library, student from RB UN Cop 28, has flyers. Arbor Day offer to assist with flyer. AC – White Oak being planted.

FF – Looking forward to the next steps on Community Action Plan, where to be in 20 years. Village budget connected to priorities. Need more than volunteers, need resources also. Will send email also. ES – Money in budget for this plan.

JK – West 40, Village of Oak Park has resources to utilize. One Earth Film Festival

11. Adjournment – 8:14 pm LK motions to approve, NW seconds - All Approved

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 Goals: Education and Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan

Lee Kaufman	School Bicycling Event, Electric Powered Equipment for Natural Lawn Care
LeeAnn Kruszynski	Tree Walk, Planting Demonstration, Arbnet, Reusa Palooza, Climate Action
Mariana Nicolae	Water Quality/Sustainability – Composting, Climate Change Awareness
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
Kari Roberg	TBA