



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 Minutes

September 5, 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 WOJCIC

I. 6:30 - Call to Order

Attending Commissioners: Liz Wiseman-Chase, LeeAnn Kruszynski, Lee Kaufman, Mariana Nicolae, Kari Roberg, Nikki Way, Walt Wojcik

- a. Attending Staff Representative: Annie Canavan
- b. Attending Board Representative: Evie Slavic
- c. Attending Residents: Dianne Scott

II. Pledge

III. Roll Call

- a. Lee motions to add LeeAnn remote participation via phone, Kari seconds, all approve.

IV. Inspiration – Annie Canavan

- a. “The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.” - Rachel Carson
- b. Next Month – 10/3/24: Mariana Nicole

V. Review of Minutes – Nikki Way

- a. Approval of 8/1/ 24 regular meeting minutes
 - i. Material changes were suggested.
 - ii. Lee motions to table minutes for approval, Kari seconds, all approve.

VI. Quarterly Reports

- a. Second Quarter – Walt Wojcik
 - i. Walt motions to table the second quarter report, Liz's second, and all approve. Table second quarter report.
- b. Third Quarter - Walt

VII. Old Business

- a. 2024 Newsletter Calendar
 - i. October: TBD
 - 1. Decided that the SBC article would be good for spring when clean-up happens. Instead, would do a “leave the leaves” article. Something on

composting. Kari will look at Pumpkin smash, LeeAnn will contribute a Leave the leaves article.

b. Monthly: Plant-Based Recipes – Kari

c. November would be about Walt's healthy diet and the plant.

VIII. 2024 Planning Calendar

a. *Debrief*: National Night Out August 6th – Liz

i. Walt: Not a lot of visitors, but talked with first responders, and they can't do Electric Vehicles.

b. *Debrief*: Concerts in the Park/EV Car Show August 28th – Walt

i. Liz: Good attendance. Very windy, so couldn't put papers out. Also talked about air quality awareness.

ii. Walt: Should have the first seven spots at Mayfair for the show.

iii. Evie: Wants reusable signs for the Electric Vehicle Car Show.

c. *Proposed*: Outreach Table: Prairie Fest September 7th – Liz

i. Liz and Walt will go and pass out flyers.

d. Movie Screening "Climate Change: The Facts" September 19th - Walt

i. Nicole Molinaro offered to make popcorn. Anne will ask if possible. Karri suggests people bring their own bowls?

ii. Directional signage is needed (remind Annie).

e. Reuse A Palooza September 21st & 22nd – LeeAnn Kruszynski

i. 120 sign-ups. Ask if Village could make a push to promote it on Facebook, add to Marquee sign, and outdoor signage.

f. Tree Walk October 5th – LeeAnn

i. Working with Jim on content. LeeAnn asks if we can put a flyer at Prairie Fest?

g. Pumpkin Smash – November 9th – Kari

i. Matt provided content, SBC agreed to a bin, Mayfair is confirmed, just waiting to hear back about church parking lot. Discuss business card size promotion for trick-or-treat buckets.

h. *Proposed*: Guided Tour of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District –

i. November 12th – Mariana Nicolae

1. Guided tour, will be outside, will be cold. Commissioners decided to move to April.

IX. Home Waste Reduction Resource – Kari (no updates)

X. 2025 Event Calendar – Liz

a. Solar event with CUB in Spring - Liz

b. Tour of/Collection event with SCARCE - Kari

- c. Bike safety event – Nikki/Lee
 - 1. Active Transit Alliance – they are pushing safe streets for all campaigns. Have good materials to help people be safer and get around easier. Could be May or June if get Ride Illinois.
- d. Climate action event – Walt

XI. Need to write a proposal, costs, staff resources, ect.

- a. Incentives for Electric Appliances – Liz W-Chase

XII. 2025 – will couple with newsletter. There is a speaker through Climate Reality about electrifying home. Evie clarifies that if it is “ideas” it doesn’t have to be licensed. Discussed if ComEd or ReWire America would have better materials.

XIII. Sustainable Purchasing Statement – Kari

- a. Liz: Add something like, “If we choose your group, what value-added will you provide with education?” Kari will amend, and then GROW will vote on a final statement.

XIV. Updates from the Administrative Services Coordinator and Trustee Liaison Annie Canavan, Evie Slavic

- a. Community Energy Planning Grant - RFP status
 - i. Annie: Drafting for it to be reviewed by attorney, will be live in a few weeks.
- b. GRC – Greenest Region Compact baseline scoring update
 - i. Focused on what we know has been achieved, if not, marked as “not planned” based on knowledge. Next steps would be to choose goals to prioritize. GROW to discuss special meeting. We could create a sustainability report to highlight what is accomplished and use it for a climate action plan and/or sustainability plan.
 - ii. Next meeting will discuss what to do or special meeting.
- c. Tree Walk Site Visit Scheduling w Jim Semelka
- d. GROW Proposals for Westchester Schools
 - i. Will set up meeting between village staff and school. If there is interest, will bring GROW in.
- e. Request to Purchase PurpleAir Monitor
 - i. Village manager reviewed and decided not to move forward because there is a program that staff would have to upkeep. We did subscribe to an air monitor alert program.

XV. New Business

- a. Anti-Idling Legislation – Liz
 - i. Liz found two IL statues regarding the Village acting on anti-idling. Evie discussed with Jim Novosel – complex issue. They are reviewing how something would be put together and enforceable so that the officers would understand when applicable and how and when it could be enforced. Discussion of timeline, but there is no clear deadline.

- ii. Mariana discussed an issue with SBC, policy vs citizen outreach, if this issue could be solved with an RFP.
- b. Parkway Demonstration Plot/Buckthorn Grant – LeeAnn
 - i. LeeAnn tabled

XVI. Commission Comments

- a. Liz: As of August 15, Westchester had 109 Electric Vehicles.
- b. Walt: Met with Amanda Grant from the Food Pantry, GROW could have a table
- c. Nikki: Propose changes to the agenda. We spend a lot of time discussing the newsletter and briefing events. Would like to focus on the ordinances and systems-level issue. Nikki to prepare a sample agenda. Add the debriefing notes to the agenda.
- d. Plants on Plates—This is a program that we should promote to ensure that children have vegetarian options. The school promotes it, so the village does not.

XVII. Staff/Board Representative Comments

XVIII. 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. LeeAnn – Prairie Fest is 10 – 4; she can bring flyers to give to Patricia.
- b. Dr. Alex Perdum – a Professional at Harper College, recognizes the work that GROW is doing. He wants to share an issue near to heart about mono-culture lawns. Applauds No Mow May. As long-term action, would love to see Westchester divest from lawns – more sustainable lawn alternatives. GROW suggests that

XIX. Adjournment

- a. 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.
- b. **8:22 PM** Nikki motions to adjourn, Walt seconds. All approve.

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