



# Village of Westchester

10300 ROOSEVELT ROAD, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

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WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG

## GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

December 12, 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 WOJCIK

#### A. 6:30 - Call to Order

#### B. Pledge

**C. Roll Call: Present-** Commissioners Kaufman, Roberg, Wiseman-Chase, Wojcik  
Trustee Slavic, Administrative Services Coordinator Canavan  
**Absent-** Commissioner Way

- A. Motion to allow Commissioners Kruszynski and Nicolae to participate remotely  
Motioned by Commissioner Kaufman, seconded by Commissioner Roberg, all voted to approve.

#### D. Inspiration – Kari Roberg

Next Month –

#### E. Review of Minutes – Nikki Way (5 min)

- . Approval of 11/7/24 regular meeting minutes
  - i. Motion to approve amended minutes by Commissioner Wojcik, seconded by Commissioner Kaufman. All voted to approve.

#### F. Quarterly Reports (5 min)

- a. Fourth Quarter – next report will be written by Commissioner Kaufman, assisted by Commissioner Wojcik.

#### G. Updates from Village Staff and Board Representatives – (10 min) Annie Canavan, Evie Slavic

- . Community Energy Grant – RFP Response Evaluation Status
  - i. ASC Canavan reported that the RFP came back with only 1 response for over \$95K so the board voted to reject it as it was more than double the grant amount. They will be issuing a new RFQ to see who can provide what kind of service based on the grant requirements. C. Kaufman asked if the RFQ can be viewed and it was replied yes.
- a. Buckthorn Grant
  - i. ASC Canavan reported that it was submitted to clear an area on the north end of town near Wedgewood and Norfolk and to replant with native grasses. The estimated project cost is \$68K and the max grant award is \$25K. If the grant is awarded, it needs to be determined if funds exist in next year's budget to complete the project.

b. Sustainable Purchasing Statement

- i. The review and amendment of the ordinance is in process.

c. GRC Subcommittees

- i. The question arose as to whether residents can be on the subcommittee. T. Slavic replied that will be checked and reported back in Jan.

**H. Old Business (30 min)**

a. GRC Subcommittee Interests (15 min)

- i. C. Wiseman-Chase suggested focus areas by topic, 1 person is the lead, she has an email list of residents who have attended and if they are allowed on subcommittee she will use this to reach out. Discussion also about past commissioners participating and how to tie this into C4 grants and opportunities. Sub committees report back to GROW, GROW reviews and then follows process. T. Slavic and ASC Canavan to report back with outline of process etc.
- ii. Preliminary subcommittees are municipal operations (Roberg, Kaufman), energy (Wiseman -Chase, Wojcik), water (Nicolae). Item tabled to revisit at next meeting

. Events

i. November event debriefs (5 min)

1. Food Pantry Vendor Fair – tabling event for 5 hours manned by C. Wojcik for entire time with help for 2 hours from C. Kaufman. Estimated that 30-40 people stopped by to discuss and took handouts. Went well.

ii. Upcoming event support needs (5 min)

1. C Wojcik would like to show “Being the Change” for the next GROW movie night. Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> was decided to be the date at 6:30 pm. Suggestions were made as to room set-up.

a. Newsletter article ideas/support (5 min)

i. January – “Indoor Air Quality” - Liz- 3 min

1. Graphic with EPA and American Lung Association bullet points. C. Wojcik asked which option to choose for green facts. The group agreed on the quote from Laporte Diet for a Small Planet.

ii. February -

1. With Valentines day, a suggestion was an article on Fair Trade chocolate, what is it and eco-friendly Valentines gifts. Author C. Wojcik

**9. New Business (20 min)**

i. 2025 Meeting Calendar and Goals – 15 min

1. Commission set 2025 meeting schedule and will be published and added to village calendar.

ii. Presentation: Lead in Drinking Water, EPA Updates – Mariana – 5 min

1. History on the lead line situation in the US. The current EPA scheduled was mentioned and deadlines given and questioned if village is aware. C. Nicolae offered to assist. T. Slavic assured her the dates were well known and we have already submitted our lead line inventory back in spring to the EPA as required. Asked C. Nicolae to submit her questions and presentation and T. Slavic and ASC Canavan will have replies for next meeting.

**10. Comments (5 min)**

a. Commission Comments

- i. C. Wiseman-Chase reported the current EV situation in IL and Westchester. Also that the hospital she recently visited in FL had EV charging stations in the parking lot. Also that she recently saw 2 cars charging at the stations at our Walgreens.
- ii. C. Kaufman asked about putting EV chargers in our streetlamp posts. He also mentioned recently at the Loyola Fitness Center he recently discussed EV and charging stations with fellow patrons. He also mentioned his opinion that he felt too much salt was used for the recent snow event.

**b. Staff/Board Comments**

- i. T. Slavic commented she had spoken with 92.5 Superintendent Dr. Phil Salemi about the summer GROW family movie night. He stated he was receptive to work with GROW in the future and even provide some information about their current programs/projects.

**11. 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.*

No comments

**12. Closed Session**

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) - Meeting to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Motion to enter Closed session by Commissioner Kaufman, Seconded by C. Roberg. All voted aye.

Return to Regular meeting 7:42 p.m. Roll call - present Commissioners Kaufman, Roberg, Wiseman-Chase, Wojcik and Commissioners Kruszynski and Nicolae remotely (already approved).

**13. 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. 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.

A. Vote to adjourn – all voted aye.

<b>2025 Planning Calendar</b>		
<b>Event</b>	<b>Organizer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Proposed Movie Night: “Being the Change”	Walt	January 2025
Solar Event with CUB	Liz	Spring 2025
Waste Collection with SCARCE	Kari	Spring 2025

Bike Safety Event “Safe Streets for All”	Nikki/Lee	Spring 2025
Guided Tour of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	Mariana	Spring 2025
Climate Action Event	Walt	Spring/Summer 2025
Home Electrification (w/ Incentives for Electrical Appliances Article)	Liz	Spring/Summer 2025

<b>Newsletter Calendar</b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>Article Topic</b>	<b>Author</b>
Monthly	Plant Based Recipes	Kari
Proposed	Monthly Food Fact Bullet Point	Walt
January 2025	Proposed: Indoor Air Quality	Liz
February 2025		

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