

## Meeting - Environmental Improvement Commission

March 6, 2017, 6:00 PM

Westmont Public Library, 428 N Cass Ave, Westmont, IL 60559

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### Meeting Minutes - Final

1. Call To Order  
Kim Lombardozzi called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
2. Roll Call  
In attendance: Glenn Gabryel, Mary Gabryel, Kate Johnson (arrived at 6:08), Kim Lombardozzi, Mary McAuliffe, Brittany Smith (departed 8pm), Tyler Tieche (departed 8pm) and Bob Van Hyfte.  
Absent: Erin Kennedy  
Staff in attendance: Jon Yeater (Liaison).  
Guest: Kim White – DuPage Monarch Project

3. Pledge of Allegiance  
Led by Kim Lombardozzi

4. Consent Agenda  
Kim Lombardozzi addressed the commission on this agenda item:
  - a. February 6, 2016 regular meeting minutes
  - b. February 13, 2017 special meeting minutes

**Motion was made by Mary McAuliffe to approve the consent agenda. The motion was second by Brittany Smith and unanimously approved by voice vote.**

5. Reports
  - a. Climate Action Plan
    - Tyler Tieche provided an update. Please refer to February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes for details.
    - Next meeting March 13, at 6 pm at the Westmont Library.
    - Goal is to provide a draft report to the EIC in June and target fall to present the CAP to the Village Board
    - Mary McAuliffe inquired what follow up should be done on the letters sent out to community groups in January. This item has been deferred to the March 13<sup>th</sup> CAP meeting.

b. Earth Month Guest Speakers – Arbor Day Contest and Tree Tagging

- Speaker Series

2/23 Thursday Presentation Conservation at Home had attendance of 15 residents and 3 commission members and Jon Yeater. A rain barrel was raffled off. Plan to distributed seed packets from The DuPage Forest Preserve at future presentations.

- Arbor Day Contest

10 individuals have signed up for the contest.

Looking for assistance on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> 10:30-1pm. Help set up and promote EIC and Richmond Garden

- Arbor Day Tree Tagging

A local resident and Maercker Ecology Club have signed up to tag trees. Picking up materials at Morton Arboretum on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Tree seedling giveaway program. Friday 4/28-29.

c. Community Recycling Containers Update

- Jon Yeater reported that there was some contamination and the design of the current containers allows rainwater to contaminate the paper. To alleviate this problem will relocate some contain under an overhead cover. Additional signage was added to educate the public.

d. Holiday Lights Recycling

- 1,686 pounds collected and the village received \$33.82. This is 24.6% decrease from last year when we collected 2,237 pounds. The library received favorable comments.

e. Richmond Education Gardens and Apiary Project and Fundraisers

- Ground Breaking Saturday April 22 Earth Day from 10-12

- The site will be spray painted to outline each section and/or feature

- Will be promoting the brick purchase program and selling bee buttons/pins

6. Old Business

a. Volunteer Waivers

- Use waivers for all events involving community volunteers.



b. Committee Member Village Email Account Setup

**Action item:**

**Tyler Tieche hopes to resolve his access issue before the next meeting.**

c. DuPage Monarch Project Resolution

**Motion: Environmental Improvement Commission recommends that the Village of Westmont adopt a resolution to work with the DuPage Monarch project to improve and increase available monarch habitat. Brittany Smith made the motion and was second by Mary McAuliffe and unanimously approved by voice vote.**

**See Exhibit A.**

- Brittany Smith noted that the library is a designated monarch sanctuary
- Kim White (DuPage Monarch Project) commented that mosquito abatement spraying kills the butterfly caterpillars and other pollinators. The commission noted that Clark Mosquito does very limited spraying.
- Commissioners recommend that we provide public education on yard pesticides and the impact on children and neighbors. This may include a presentation that would be taped.
- Jon Yeater noted that Ty Warner Park has a native grass prairie and where possible naturalized plantings are being planned such as the storm water management sites recently acquired by the village.

d. Conservation in Our Community Program – The Conservation Foundation

- 2/24 meeting with Conservation Foundation
- Discussed several program options including a potential fall tree and shrub sale in fall

e. EIC Brand/Logo

- Deferred to April meeting.

**Action Item:**

**Erin, Bob and Tyler - Review proposed EIC logo and suggest message on Chamber of Commerce Banner**

f. Chamber of Commerce Banner

- Deferred to April meeting

g. Wyland Foundation – National Mayor’s Challenge For Conservation

- The commissioners recommend that we pass on this Mayor’s challenge.

h. Promotional Materials for Speaker Series

- Plan to distribute native seed packet we received from the DuPage Forest Preserve.



7. New Business

a. Arbor Day Contest Expenditures

**Mary Gabryel made a motion to make expenditures for prizes for Arbor Day Contest and reception not to exceed \$500. The motion was second by Kim Lombardozzi and unanimously approved by voice vote.**

b. Rain Barrel Contest

Kate Johnson is exploring the contest. Possible project for 2018.

**Action Item:**

**Jon Yeater to reach out to Larry Forssberg, Westmont Chamber of Commerce if we could collaborate on a contest.**

c. Conference and Webinars

**Motion: Brittany Smith made a motion to make an expenditure not to exceed \$80 for a Webinar “Environmental Practice in Flux: Transitioning to the Trump Administration” presented by National Association of Environmental Professionals to be attended by Glenn Gabryel. The motion was second by Tyler Tieche and unanimously approved by voice vote.**

8. Misc. / Action Plan

- Social Media

Jon Yeater reported concerns if EIC had a separate Facebook page and staff requested we provide a list of other communities with separate pages and would like to review materials before postings are made.

Kim Lombardozzi reported on using Mail Chimp. Mail Chimp provides the option to opt-out and would have no cost unless distribution exceeds 2,000.

Green Speakers Series banner has been posted at Burlington and Cass.

**Action Items:**

**- Jon Yeater to inquire with village staff about the use of Mail Chimp and posting the Waste Management presentation from the February meeting on Facebook**

**- Kim Lombardozzi to identify other communities with separate EIC Facebook page**

**-Jon Yeater will have 2 banners created to promote the Richmond Education Garden.**

- Holy Trinity Energy Friday, March 31

HTS earned a competitive grant through the Energizing Student Potential program. Student's grades 5-8 were asked to complete a STEM challenge community project. Demonstrations will be hosted by the students, lessons will be shared and the results of the school-wide energy audit the 8th grade completed will be presented. This event is open to the community on Friday, March 31, 2017 from 1-3 pm and 4:30-7:30pm at the Westmont Community Center gymnasium at 75 E. Richmond Street, Westmont.

- Red White and Blue BBQ recycling

Bob Van Hyfte reported on his meeting with Bob Fleck, Executive Director of the Westmont Park District, to collaborate on recycling opportunities at the event on May26-28<sup>th</sup>.

9. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Van Hyfte and second by Kate Johnson and unanimously approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.**

## **Exhibit A – March 6, 2017 EIC Meeting Minutes**

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE VILLAGE OF WESTMONT ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO WORK WITH THE DUPAGE MONARCH PROJECT TO IMPROVE AND INCREASE AVAILABLE MONARCH HABITAT

WHEREAS, the Village of Westmont's Strategic Plan for 2021 promotes honoring the natural environment and encouraging green initiatives, and promotes aggressively addressing stormwater management conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Westmont's ordinance includes native vegetation as a way to stabilize banks (Sections 34-40 and 34-41), and encourages native/natural areas plantings (Section 80-48); and

WHEREAS, the Village of Westmont, located in north eastern Illinois, has long been on the annual monarch butterfly's migration route of thousands of miles from Mexico to Canada and has provided monarch caterpillars with native milkweed species, their sole source of food; and

WHEREAS, Illinois designated the iconic monarch butterfly as the official state insect in 1975 as the result of lobbying by Illinois schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies point to the rapid decline of the monarch butterfly due to the loss of milkweed habitat needed to lay their eggs and for their caterpillars to eat, resulting from development, land management practices, and chemically aided agriculture in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, because the decimation of pollinators, including the North American monarch, which serves as an iconic species, has potential negative consequences for natural ecosystems as well as for human food production, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently studying the species to determine if it should be listed under the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, on a national level conservation organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have undertaken efforts to reinvigorate milkweed and other nectar-producing plants to help restore monarch habitat in open spaces and suburban and urban gardens; and

WHEREAS, because there are many different species of milkweed in the U.S., it is important to recognize that only native milkweed is vital to the restoration and survival of the monarch habitat in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum, DuPage County Forest Preserve District, the River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club and Greater DuPage Wild Ones, a native plant advocacy group, are encouraging communities to plant native milkweed and valuable nectar plants where appropriate

THEREFORE, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE VILLAGE OF WESTMONT RESOLVE: The Village of Westmont is directed to work with the DuPage Monarch Project to improve and increase available monarch habitat through:

(1) the identification of Village owned and leased land to:

- identify and certify existing qualifying areas that are planted to encourage monarch and pollinator habitat;
- conduct an inventory of where native milkweed species and nectar plants can appropriately be incorporated into existing and new plantings;
- create at least one new monarch way station on Village of Westmont owned or leased land that meets Monarch Watch certification criteria; and
- protect pollinators by reducing the use of pesticides on Village-owned land while also encouraging residential and business property owners to reduce pesticide use; and

(2) make educational materials available to homeowners to encourage residents to provide monarch friendly habitat on their own property, and provide information about where homeowners can purchase attractive, site appropriate milkweed species for residential landscaping.