



PUBLIC NOTICE

Environmental Improvement Committee

Westmont Village Hall - 31 W. Quincy Street - 2nd Floor

April 3, 2023, 5:30 PM

MINUTES

1. **Call To Order** - EIC Chair Bruce Barker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm
2. **Roll Call** - by observation: Bruce Barker (Village Trustee), Larry McIntyre (EIC Village Liaison/Communications Director), Colleen Seisser (EIC Committee/Westmont Library Asst. Director), Carol Johnson (EIC Committee), Gerry Richter (EIC Committee), Glenn Gabryel (EIC Committee), Christa Stanulis (EIC Committee), Marybeth Carlson (EIC Committee), Kimberly Bell (EIC Committee); **GUEST:** Suzanne Lestina **ABSENT:** .Linda Liddle (Village Trustee)
 - a. Minutes were taken by Seisser
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Barker led the group in the pledge of allegiance
4. **Public Comment**
 - a. Resident of Downers Grove in the audience: Suzanne Lestina
 - i. Concerned about the lack of environmental activities in DG and wants to raise environmental issues awareness
 - ii. They have reached out and are visiting surrounding EIC's
 - iii. Downers Grove Mayor just signed GRC
 1. The [Greenest Region Compact \(GRC\)](#) "leverages the strength of municipal government to build vibrant, sustainable communities across the Chicago region."
 2. "Municipalities adopt the GRC by formal resolution and agree to work to achieve GRC goals in their community and in collaboration with other municipalities across the region."
 - iv. Currently visiting to see how Westmont's EIC functions and report back to get a Downers Grove group back to being active
 - v. Barker: Direct questions to McIntyre
 - vi. Stanulis: Advised to attend GRC2

5. Minutes

- a. **Approve February minutes** - Motion by Gabryel, second by Stanulis, approved unanimously by voice vote
- b. **Approve March minutes** - Motion by Johnson, second by Bell, approved unanimously by voice vote

6. Reports

a. Chair Report

i. Recycling Contest Results

1. McIntyre: reviewed the results
 - a. Residential: each of the finalists submitted quite a bit of information - 4 finalists and award winners
 - b. Commercial: less participation - 3 award winners
 - c. Next actions in the hands of Waste Management: create awards, bring to village board meeting and hand out to winners, publish in village news magazine, and 1 month free waste hauling
 - d. Carlson: asked if the person making their own products, such as soap, was on the list; NOTE - After the meeting, McIntyre confirmed that this person was one of the top 4 residential recipients
2. Barker: Agree to continue contest for 2023
 - a. 2023 contest would be announced in August and then announce a winner a few months later
 - b. McIntyre will confirm sponsorship with WM
3. Bell: Have a handout for recycling events, QR code for signing up during the recycling event; McIntyre agreed

ii. SCARCE Facility Tour Review

1. Barker, in review:
 - a. Grateful for the visit
2. Bell: Laundromat libraries, looked into the ones she knew about and one was in Downers Grove. Asked about next steps
 - a. McIntyre: Confirmed that if we have a volunteer from EIC who wants to take this on, then we can proceed
 - b. McIntyre: We should connect with Chamber to get list of Westmont laundromats
 - c. Barker: Explained the program; SCARCE in 11 different

- laundromats to offer books for young readers to take and return, create bookcases and install to laundromat
- d. Stanulis: What is the process? Would someone from the committee visit regularly to stock? **Yes, McIntyre will connect Bell with the Chamber, SCARCE and other resources**
 - e. Barker: Village Board aware of the program and positive feedback
3. Johnson: wanted to know more about what SCARCE does for communities, especially current bills and workshops. Potential for promotion or doing workshops in Westmont.
- a. Outreach/community connection was not as much a focus. Specifically their connection with communities in DuPage county; **McIntyre will create news release to promote SCARCE and their resources**
 - b. Barker: SCARCE has lots to do with not as many staff, taking on a lot. Priority is to prevent everything from going to landfill
 - c. Johnson: A positive was to see what they are doing and the number of volunteers
 - d. Barker: be sure to visit website. Johnson: also subscribe to SCARCE newsletters
 - e. McIntyre: Kay involved in anything green in the county. McIntyre promotes SCARCE in the Village newsletter and by word of mouth. Schools are a priority. Kay is active depending on what is happening in state and locally. Collection events and special reuse events will be listed on the SCARCE website if they are told
 - i. Other resources: Cool Dupage

b. EIC Liaison Report

- i. Previous email from McIntyre: EIC events that overlap with public works: scaling back temporarily so Public Works may not be able to partner as much with EIC
- ii. Electronics & More Recycling Event - Ideally 2 EIC volunteers throughout event
 - 1. Now in front of Village hall (no longer at Public Works)

- a. One way street leading to Village Hall to commuter parking lot
 - 2. One EIC and EMA at lot entrance, should avoid backup
 - 3. Will be a reverse flow to the normal flow of parking lot, but barricades will be up to prevent traffic issues
 - 4. Drive to flat can first and then eWorks, staff handles 100% of collection
 - 5. Anything that costs money will be cash or credit card right there
 - 6. EIC members at opening of lot and then right before flat can for handouts
 - 7. Barker: likes this lot location, makes it more visible. Asked about signage: McIntyre—signage has been requested.
 - 8. Barker call for volunteers: Richter, Bell, Stanulis, Carlson.
 - 9. Get counter from Zach
 - 10. 315 cars last time
- iii. Seedling Giveaway Program - 105 Sign-Ups
 - iv. Adopt-A-Planter Program - Adoptions Completed - 30 Sign-Ups
 - v. No Mow Program - 200 Sign-Ups
 - vi. River Sweep/Storm Drain Stenciling Program: no Village participation this year
 - vii. Review/Update of 2023 EIC-PW Events Schedule
 - 1. Pumpkin toss likely will no longer happen, at least not with Village equipment
 - a. McIntyre to rethink. Original goal was to promote pumpkin composting
 - b. Carlson: Pumpkin bowling might be an alternative
 - 2. Next EIC meeting: ideas for Cruisin Nights (native plants, dark skies). Work with Westmont Special Events
 - viii. Review 2022 WM Tonnage Collection Data
 - 1. Gabryel: Reviewed previous years stats for collections
 - a. Waste went up in 2020, landscape stayed the same. Waste up likely due to stay at home
 - b. 2021—yard waste increased 18% and waste reverted back to normal pattern
 - c. 2022— recycling improved modestly, while collection remained flat

- d. Does not include eWorks
 - e. Now with 5 years of data: patterns consistent except for 2021 yard waste spike
 - f. Linearly: we are back to historical pattern, recycling should show slight improvement, but should start to even out with waste
 - g. McIntyre: interesting that there was a decrease when curbside composting was introduced. Could this be resident dissatisfaction? Gabryel suggests that it might be weather related. Holiday tree/wreaths included in yard waste counts.
 - h. Stanulis: ideally we will see an impact with yard waste but it make take a few years
 - i. eWorks numbers for collections: surrounding communities didn't report data (may not have the program) so can't look directly but comparatively to other communities we are making a significant contribution
 - i. Stanulis: impact of timing of eWorks events and having an event after another big event (ex. Lisle just had a huge event with SCARCE)
 - ii. McIntyre: scheduling were the dates that were given to us, but we should make recommendations
2. County report not ready yet but it will be added when it is issued
- ix. 2022 EIC Annual Report & 2023 Goals
- 1. On hold for scheduling and waiting on data
 - 2. Next admin/finance two weeks from this Thursday.
 - 3. Barker: Mayor makes a point to meet with each committee annually. Happening after election results. Dates may range for the next three months based on availability
 - a. Last Village Board meeting: RFP for Waste Management-board receptive and grateful for committee's work
 - b. Dark skies project: Stanulis spoke, set bar high. Not only right lights but spacing of lights that is critical. Barker happy committee is moving the Village in the right direction
 - 4. McIntyre: Oak Park just switched to Lakeshore and delivered a second toter. Interesting to see since that is the opposite of what

we have worked for.

5. Barker shared: we have had Waste Management for 17 years.
Take advantage of EIC to help with the RFP
6. Johnson: Stanulis did an amazing job. Stanulis: thankful they are receptive
7. Stanulis: Any idea of when final RFP is going to come together?
Barker: the fall. Stanulis: any more questions for EIC? Barker: will make sure they do
 - a. McIntyre: once there is a final draft: EIC to review

x. Dark Sky Contest

1. McIntyre: waiting for budget to be approved. First week of May.
Create contest and roll out after that
2. Stanulis: sent thoughts about the contest:
 - a. % reimbursement not to exceed xyz?
 - b. Comply with ordinances?
 - c. EIC messaging about 4 major bullet points?
 - d. Think about what has to be submitted: photos, receipts?
 - e. Who reviews? Who verifies?
 - f. McIntyre work with Stanulis to roll out draft proposal to EIC for next meeting**
 - i. Will have to be honor system due to staffing
 - ii. Rollout and signup form: estimate up to a certain amount, send photo to show it's installed
 - iii. Stanulis: photo should show it is installed
 - iv. McIntyre: even with rain barrel not a lot of photos
 - v. Stanulis: have them sign off
 - vi. Barker: design of the program should be EIC committee driven
 1. EIC to review anything, not Village staff
 2. Same should take place with recycling contest
 3. EIC should manage: rain barrels, dark skies and recycling the same way
3. Carlson: Provision for people who have no lights? Or Recognition for someone who doesn't have any lights?
 - a. McIntyre: subsidy for a reimbursement for a change, so if

you hire someone to remove lights that would work. Good idea but subsidy would not apply. More of acknowledgement

b. Barker: part of the education

xi. Community Solar Update

1. McIntyre: on Village radar, staff plans to schedule a meeting without Community Solar contacts.
2. Gabryel: staff time has to be considered and presented as part of it
3. Barker: April 13 Village budget workshop, can watch at home. Will see where the Village money is going environmentally.
 - a. EIC members to let Barker know if there is something to lobby for

c. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Report–Gabryel

- i. March 21 meeting, recorded on MMC site>environment committee>initiatives>left side most recent meeting and then open meeting and access meeting resources
- ii. Subject: geothermal energy. Focus on residential geothermal systems
 1. Residents can input under the front lawn. Messy to start but gets cleaned up and the system will focus on home comfort over long run time. Reduction of greenhouse gasses. Input is heat in winter and heat extraction in summer.
 2. Every dollar spent yields considerably higher return
 3. Tapping into underground warmth in winter and turning that around in summer (our area averages 50 degrees)
 4. Carlson: Taking into consideration the different grounds and safety? Gabryel: yes, there are code enforcements and installation has to be vetted by town and county for safety. Companies have to be registered and authorized to install
- iii. Next MMC meeting: either update on sol smart or ESG issues–watch for it in your email

d. School Liaison Report-Johnson

- i. Richmond Gardens: How are other gardens managed? Schools have been involved in Clarendon Hills
 1. McIntyre:
 - a. Richmond Gardens was conceived by the former asst.

Village Manager of Clarendon Hills; original interest in housing an apiary and then utilizing an unused space jointly owned by Westmont and CH

- b. Project started in Clarendon Hills and they came to Westmont to assist, Westmont then provided support and funding as Village
- c. CH had previously reached out to other entities for funding
- d. Yeater got involved and helped steer the development of the project
- e. Currently, there is no identified point person to lead this initiative, hence, McIntyre oversees various aspects of promotion and coordination, then Westmont and CH Public Works staff provide maintenance
- f. Now:
 - i. Hinsdale High School no longer involved
 - ii. Original website designer no longer involved; McIntyre currently updating basic content for website to make sure it is accurate - updates done as time allows
- g. Next step: Village is interested in having new conversations with public agencies to see if it is a better fit (especially because of the signups for using the space)
- h. No timelines yet
- i. McIntyre recently sent out significant re-promotion to about 20 community partners to promote use of the space
- j. Johnson: how much is Clarendon Hills still involved?
McIntyre: much smaller, one admin staff person who is juggling this along with other duties
- k. Johnson: who provides the maintenance? McIntyre: Clarendon Hills and Westmont Public Works maintain together
- l. Barker: first goal was to finish it, and now the goal is to promote and have communities use the space. Residents use it and enjoy it but not utilized by community organizations
 - i. McIntyre has been pushing to Westmont and CH

parnters

m. Westmont Garden Club: topic of conversation, looking at the possibility of growing something and meeting there.

Garden Club meeting tomorrow, will be talking about continued Richmond Gardens involvement

ii. Johnson: looking for ideas for collaboration with schools. Send them along to her

1. Hard time of year, spring break then end of school year

2. Reusable school supplies: other EIC committee is doing a collection

3. Stanulis: put information into digital backpacks? Johnson has been working on this

4. McIntyre will contact Jamie Max at CUSD201 to get EIC info out to the schools

e. EIC Budget Update

i. Budget workshops coming up. Approval May1. Will know what we have to work with then

ii. Village looking to change to calendar year budget within two years

7. Unfinished Business

a. none

8. New Business

a. none

9. Misc.

a. Carlson: Work on train corridor and native plantings?

i. McIntyre: conversations are happening. Larger plan in place for downtown (West Quincy Street and train corridor) and is being planned, but not happening at this moment. May take years to complete

ii. Barker: Meeting with Fleck/Yeater/Devries shows EIC that our staff has these projects in mind and is working on them. How soon we can do it depends on funding and other factors

1. The Westmont Village Budget planning workshop is 4/13, 4:30pm at Village Hall where people can learn about where their money goes. Staff presentation to the Board, not a lot of give and take from the audience unless the Mayor invites it. This meeting averages less than 3 hours, may be closer to 90 minutes

b. Carlson: Will there be benches at the train station plaza, current cement slabs

are uncomfortable. Barker said that things will be added to as funding allows

- c. Stanulis: IDA membership expiration in Feb, was it renewed? **ACTION: McIntyre will follow up and check on the membership; NOTE: McIntyre confirmed that IDA membership was renewed in February.**
 - d. Johnson: Green Team Expo, 9-noon 4/17
 - e. Richter: Asked about tear down business strip center on Cass? Barker: Two lots: one car wash and the other is new development. Richter: White house on Cass and 55th overgrown? Barker: owned by the county.
 - f. Seisser: Library Westmont Garden Expo. May 20 10-noon. EIC can have a table to speak about EIC activities. Carlson volunteers, will speak about native plants
 - i. Gabyrel: resources for activities for table, will send to McIntyre
 - g. Johnson: Seedling distribution volunteers **ACTION: McIntyre will ask if they need volunteers**
- 10. Adjourn** - Motion by Stanulis, second by Carlson, approved unanimously by voice vote,
7:15 pm