



## ADMINISTRATION

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

## Environmental Improvement Committee

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

May 1, 2023, 5:30 PM

### MINUTES

1. **Call To Order** - EIC Chair Bruce Barker called the meeting to order at 5:33pm
2. **Roll Call** - by observation: Bruce Barker (Village Trustee), Jenny Babyar (EIC Village Liaison/Communications), Colleen Seisser (EIC Committee/Westmont Library Asst. Director), Glenn Gabryel (EIC Committee), Christa Stanulis (EIC Committee), Carol Johnson (EIC Committee); **GUEST:** Richard Arns, Westmont resident **ABSENT:** Larry McIntyre (EIC Village Liaison/Communications Director), Linda Liddle (EIC Committee), Kimberly Bell (EIC Committee), Gerry Richter (EIC Committee), Marybeth Carlson (EIC Committee)
  - a. Minutes were taken by Seisser
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Barker led the group in the pledge of allegiance
4. **Public Comment** - none
5. **Minutes**
  - a. Approve minutes: pushed to next month. Minutes due are March and April
6. **Reports**
  - a. **Chair Report**
    - i. 2022 Annual Report & 2023 Goals Recap
      1. McIntyre and Gabryel made the presentation to the board
      2. Johnson and Gabryel attended board meeting
      3. Village was grateful and supportive of the presentation and the work of the EIC
      4. EIC budget was approved and will be reviewed soon
      5. Open conversation at Board meeting: Pumpkin Smash event will be reviewed to reduce liability; Also consider liability for future events
      6. Gabryel: time constraint, only 30 minutes to present

7. Johnson: great job Gabryel and McIntyre

**b. EIC Liaison Report**

- i. Electronics & More Recycling Event Recap
  1. Gabryel, Johnson in attendance
  2. Gabryel: reroute was not a problem. Signage might need to be changed, excess of 300 cars dropping off, majority of Westmont residents, feedback they were happy not going to a landfill.  
Waiting on tonnage from eWorks and FlatCan
  3. Johnson: EMA directed traffic, but were missing people directing at side street. Signs might have helped there.
  4. Barker: Ask Village staff first for signs and then explore other options if they don't have time
  5. Gabryel: distributed all flyers printed (300). Good at 300 for now
  6. Johnson: a number of people came through twice because they didn't know they could recycle some things. Talked with rep from eWorks and thinks it's worth inviting eWorks to EIC meeting to speak to process of recycling on their end and what their return is on these events. Johnson shared eWorks staff she talked to was Jeff Stagg. Babyar has his contact information
  7. Committee in favor of hearing from an eWorks rep at an upcoming meeting
    - a. Gabryel: might get insight into improvements for the events we have.
    - b. Stanulis: also can confirm list that they have for what they accept
      - i. Babyar: Village always directs people who call to eWorks website. Website always lists events and dates
  8. eWorks and recycling events
    - a. Stanulis: Is 300 a full load? Johnson: don't think so.  
Stanulis: good to get input for what is a good return for them. Johnson: sense that the preference would be for communities to work together. Stanulis: Larry mentioned in the past
    - b. At the event, outside of Larry, all people helping were

volunteers

- c. Gabryel: may improve if we pull cars right in the lot.

Johnson: station volunteers differently to improve flow

- d. Barker: need for another Zoom meeting? Gabryel: No, just tweak details

**ii. Dark Sky Contest**

- 1. McIntyre to develop for meeting conversation
- 2. Budgeted item, Board in favor

**iii. Community Solar Update**

- 1. Babyar: meeting a week ago with power company that outsources the solar farming. McIntyre will report at next meeting
- 2. Barker: Village has follow up questions. Village makes the recommendation to the residents that is hopefully not short lived (previous electric example)
  - a. Gabryel: leveraging Metropolitan Mayor's network's work.
  - b. Barker going to follow up with Gabryel to see if the MMC is supportive or making progress and what progress might be.
  - c. Gabryel to bring to EIC meeting in June
- 3. Stanulis: also question was sharing of address data
  - a. Barker: public doesn't want to share contact information with the Village
  - b. Gabryel: But if public wants to engage in private they have to give contact information at that point too. Participation requires contact info
  - c. Stanulis: companies don't need address data, can send zip code mailers

**c. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Report**

i. April 18:

- 1. SolSmart update:
  - a. Added platinum level
  - b. Does the village monitor or measure via comed solar contribution to the grid? How much is Westmont contributing back?
  - c. Permitting and inspection: we have it covered on our webpage. Leave it is

2. Renewable energy site-ings
  - a. Westmont not at that scale yet
3. Does VoW have renewable energy goal or model in process:  
MMC regional climate action plan should be where we start
4. We are around bronze level. Revisit in 2024 for reaching further
5. Next meeting 5/16/23, EPA support for climate change/scale
6. Is VoW tracking greenhouse gas? Not directly, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning has report
  - a. Gives details for different levels and can click through report and there's a subset of data for Westmont
    - i. Review data with lens of context (ie: cars are not the leading contributors even though they are of higher use)
    - ii. Barker: share with residents, but might be misleading
    - iii. Gabryel: This is public domain information, and can be posted as a link on the website.
      1. Gabryel: This is available and we don't need to reinvent the wheel. We have baseline numbers to start for reference
      2. Barker: can we compare to other communities? Gabryel: comparisons by county but not sure about within the county
      3. Johnson: would be good to see the comparison to determine commercial use versus resident use
      4. Johnson: what kind of commercial use do we have? Buses, train through town, etc
      5. Babyar: possible from data is from census questionnaire?
      6. Gabryel can have CMAP rep visit a future meeting
        - a. Barker: it would be valuable to help understand and avoid confusion about data
        - b. Barker asked Gabryel to follow up

and see if there is more that the committee can learn from a visit from CMAP to speak about 2019 report and data collected (Gabryel, easiest would probably be Zoom)

7. Gabryel: 2019 is the most recent data
8. Stanulis: session from MMC for process of gathering metrics
9. Barker: we could compare 2015 to 2019 to compare?

ii. Johnson: any charging stations in Westmont? Barker: working on priorities—public works, firestation. Easy to start where we own them. Downtown business row would be ideal. Library would be a good place (Village partner with Library when the opportunity arises via parking lot improvement as it comes up). Commuter lot would also be ideal.

1. Gabryel: Elmhurst opted not to put in commuter lot because of length of parking. In and out spaces are better. Oak Park added public parking in village lot to pull in and plug in
2. Levels of standards for power stations is continuing to change based on the new vehicles changing needs
3. Gabryel: other question is who is going to pay? Taxpayers, business, village... Lots of details to work out.

#### **d. School Liaison Report**

i. In communications with High School: They have prepared gardens but no planting. Prepping seedlings. Tulips growing and cuttings for prom. Then pulling tulip bulbs to store for the fall. Still have hydroponics going, tomatoes grown recently. Moved the beehives more into the sun. Spread news about the “No Mow” program on social media. Proper mulching: passing by word of mouth (Babayar: Village created press release for proper mulching)

1. No ideas as of yet for collaboration
2. After AP testing plans for next year

ii. Teacher at Holy Trinity (Paulson)

1. 5th grade, no club, but do recycling. Second grade takes care of recycling. Interested in partnering.

iii. Barker: School Supply reuse event? Johnson: not yet, La Grange park

contact slowed down due to illness. Barker: will send email to connect to Johnson to principal

**e. EIC Budget Update**

- i. Barker: assuming budget approved. Going to go back and check on rain barrel program—only works if subsidized. Will move forward if it can be subsidized.
  1. Babyar: maybe even 25% would be something to offer residents that would be appealing
  2. Barker: want to offer to bring it back as a valuable program

**7. Unfinished Business**

**8. New Business**

- a. Barker: Village to work next on zoning code update, which will help on the business side of things. Following that a comprehensive plan update. When that comes up a year or two from now, we need to have environmental pieces in it. Currently, it only references green spaces. Needs more environmental items in there to move forward
- b. Barker: subcommittee—downtown incentive program. Recommendations to the board on how we should develop the downtown. We should be providing input on that for environmental improvements. Coming in the next few months. Barker will try to give an email heads up
  - i. Stanulis: are we too late though when it's on its way to the Board? Barker: No, Barker is on the committee and using what he's learned to add to the program for the environment. Westmont is behind some other communities for what we offer for incentives. Has shared EIC thoughts and ideas

**9. Misc.**

- a. Seisser: reminder Westmont Library Garden Expo. Saturday, May 20 10am - noon at the library
  - i. Send any handouts to Seisser to print and have on table ([cseisser@westmontlibrary.org](mailto:cseisser@westmontlibrary.org))
  - ii. Stanulis: more dark skies, may have bigger display. Will be in touch if can drop them off
- b. Gabryel: Phase out for single plastic poly foam
  - i. Senate bill died, house bill looks like it also died
  - ii. Newest bill: endorsed, to a committee?
  - iii. Barker: will ask Manager May?

- iv. Would impact local restaurants
  - c. Johnson: Garden club
    - i. Seisser: last meeting discussed becoming a self led group, adopt a planter, caring for Village planters, Richmond gardens
      - 1. Meeting tomorrow at Richmond gardens, 6:30pm
    - ii. Johnson: Election judge conversation feedback? Barker: give to Babyar and McIntyre via [communications@westmont.il.gov](mailto:communications@westmont.il.gov)
  - d. Johnson: When is Pasquinelli lighting complete? Babyar checking website, no date listed yet
  - e. Johnson: Attended tree seedlings giveaway, still people coming late in the afternoon to collect their seedlings. But still a good amount left—does public works have to contact everyone? Yes (Barker)
- 10. Adjourn** - Motion by Stanulis, second by Johnson & Gabryel, approved unanimously by voice vote, 6:52pm

**NOTE - Approved at the June 2023 EIC Meeting**