



## Environmental Improvement Committee

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

November 7, 2022, 5:30 PM

### MINUTES

1. **Call To Order** - EIC Chair Bruce Barker called meeting to order at 5:32pm
2. **Roll Call** - by observation - Trustee Bruce Barker, EIC Liaison Larry McIntyre, Glenn Gabryel, Christa Stanulis, Kimberly Bell, Public Works Representative Zach Chorney;  
ABSENT: Linda Liddle, Gerry Richter, Colleen Seisser, Carol Johnson, Marybeth Carlson
  - a. **SECRETARY'S NOTE** - Without a quorum, no official actions, nor votes, were taken or documented, however, items were discussed and notes were taken
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Led by Barker
4. **Public Comment** - None.
5. **Minutes**
  - a. Minutes to be voted on at next meeting
6. **Reports**
  - a. **Chair Report** - Chair Barker talked about several items and suggested the group should consider goals and timelines for 2023
    - i. **Goals for 2023 - Dark Skies**
      1. **Dark Skies Initiative** - Further discussion with Village Board and staff regarding Dark Skies, possibly get schools more involved
      2. Barker encouraged EIC members to take photos of locations, primarily businesses and public agencies, that are potentially overlit; **ACTION ITEM: McIntyre create a Google folder for EIC members to submit their photos**
      3. Barker mentioned several specific businesses and other buildings that had overlighting issues; in one instance, Code talked to the business but there has not been a permanent change
      4. The group talked about light trespass issues
      5. Pasquinelli Drive lighting improvements were discussed at a

recent village board meeting, the bid was about 66% less than the original estimate, dark sky strategies have been incorporated into the dialogue regarding the Pasquinelli project

6. Dark Skies Contest should kick off in the new year - 2023
7. The group discussed the idea of further developing the idea of Bales and other stores regarding Dark Skies displays, products, and education
8. The group discussed the idea of asking the Village, Public Works or other entities, to try out specific dark sky fixtures as a trial - it was suggested that some of these fixtures can be acquired free of charge for the trial

ii. **Goals for 2023 - SolSmart Silver Status**

1. Barker suggested that the EIC look into the criteria to become a Silver Status SolSmart community; **ACTION ITEM: The group will identify next steps and discuss at next meeting**

iii. **Goals for 2023 - Review Rain Barrel Program**

- iv. It was suggested to Invite the new Public Works Director Amy Ries to next EIC meeting to introduce her to the EIC, its members, and its work; **ACTION ITEM: McIntyre will invite Ries to next meeting and create a presentation that provides an overview of EIC for the meeting**
- v. Barker asked Asst. Village Manager Parker for feedback on the RFP process
- vi. Barker suggested that we create our EIC annual report and present it as early as January 2023 - report could be both a recap of 2022 as well as present the goals for 2023; this may be presented at an Admin Finance meeting, which started at 4:30pm

**b. EIC Liaison Report**

- i. **Pumpkin Composting Recap** - Chorney and the group talked about the event from the previous weekend
  1. Westmont Library Garden Club wants to partner with EIC on more events; they have 32 people in their new garden club
  2. Over 170 vehicles participated in the event, 166 cars on the day of the event
  3. 691 pumpkins were collected on day of the event - over 700 pumpkins in total
  4. Dumpster was only about ½ full; in some years, it was overflowing

5. In regards to effective PR, electronics signs at Library and Fire Dept. were most effective, other people cited promotion by SCARCE, word of mouth, and this is an annual event for some people
6. People from other communities included Oak Brook Terrace and Glenview
7. 57% of the participants from Westmont; 30% from adjoining community
8. Within 10 miles, there were more than a ½ dozen other locations
9. Weather may have been a factor in terms of turnout
10. The group discussed the possibility of moving this event, specifically to the Public Works Department, so to avoid early voting dual-event congestion
11. Liability waivers were discussed and Trustee Barker is connecting with the Village Manager and Village Attorney on this item; it was suggested that the issue of waivers and volunteers should have HR's input and approval; the group discussed the need to have the village create a standard waiver for all Village/EIC events and possibly have this available online to print and fill out

**ii. Pumpkin Smash Recap - McIntyre recapped the event**

1. The virtual pre-event planning meeting was very helpful; volunteers were well-organized to staff the event
2. Record crowd for the event
3. About 25 groups were represented in the contest
4. TJ Riley won the men's division and Jenny Babyar won the women's division - they will most likely be announced at the next Village Board meeting
5. The EIC table ran out of candy, so we should have at least the same amount of candy for next year as we did for this year
6. The group discussed the splatter component of the contest and make it a requirement to fill the pumpkin with environmental-friendly/ organic material

**iii. Green Business & Residential Recycling Contest Update**

1. McIntyre stated that the contest rules were completed and the press release was published; sign-up has begun
2. Barker thanked staff for achieving the contest awards via donation

from Waste Management

**c. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Report**

- i. Gabryel was not able to attend the recent virtual meeting, but had other items to report
- ii. Barker asked for Gabryel to resend info about an upcoming program that may result in monies coming to the Village
- iii. Dec. 15 will be the next meeting in Des Plaines - this will be an in person meeting and Gabryel will be attending
- iv. Discussing Community Solar items which may result in updates for the Village Website; Barker suggested that we strive to move our SolSmart status to Silver

**7. Unfinished Business - None**

**8. New Business - None**

**9. Misc.**

- a. Chorney talked about aerosol can recycling opportunities; we would need to confirm that a recycler would be able to take it and if there would be a fee; PW has a budget for their aerosol can recycling needs; the group agreed that the EIC should look into it; **ACTION ITEM: Chorney will contact FlatCan to obtain details**
- b. Gabryel talked about the styrofoam legislation and there was been little positive movement on this item
- c. The group discussed SCARCE's ABC's of recycling information; black plastic is not being collected and recycled; recyclers are talking about reducing their range of plastics that are collected - basically, clear plastic only
- d. Barker suggested that the EIC considering sharing various info updates to the Village that may impact RFP recommendations
- e. The EIC members were thanked for their volunteerism, especially regarding the staffing of special events such as the Pumpkin Smash, Pumpkin Composting, and the upcoming special recycling event
- f. **ACTION ITEM: Larry will review online EIC folder, clean it up, and re-share with the group**
- g. Barker relayed that Johnson has suggested the idea of creating a school supply recuse program; **ACTION ITEM: McIntyre will connect with both grade school districts serving Westmont to check on the need for this program**
- h. Stanislus and the group discussed the idea of creating a program in which there was a subsidy for making dark sky purchases, similar to the rain barrel program

**10. Adjourn** - Motion by Stanilus, second by Bell, meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

***SECRETARY'S NOTE - These minutes approved at the December 5, 2022 EIC Meeting.***