



Environmental Improvement Committee

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

December 5, 2022, 5:30 PM

MINUTES

1. **Call To Order**- EIC Chair Bruce Barker called meeting to order at 5:31pm
2. **Roll Call**- by observation - Bruce Barker (EIC Chair), Larry McIntyre (EIC Liaison), Zach Chorney, Glenn Gabryel, Gerry Richter, Carol Johnson, Marybeth Carlson, Colleen Seisser, Christa Stanulis, Kimberly Bell; ABSENT: Linda Liddle; GUESTS: Kat Gordan, another resident in the audience
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Led by Barker
4. **Public Comment** - None
5. **Minutes**
 - a. Approve minutes from previous two meetings:
 - i. October Minutes, motion by Calson, second by Seisser, approved unanimously by voice vote
 - ii. November Minutes - Motion by Gabryel, second by Stanulis, approved unanimously by voice vote
6. **Reports**
 - a. **Chair Report**
 - i. Trustee Barker presented the Pumpkin Smash Awards to Jenny Babyar and TJ Riley
 - ii. **2023 EIC Goals** - Trustee Barker and the group talked about potential goals for 2023, various suggestions included the following:
 1. SolSmart
 2. Community Solar Info On Website
 3. Parkway Tree Maintenance Plan Review - specifically referencing watering plan
 4. Dark Sky - Stated that Clarendon Hills did a great job with Dark Sky lighting

5. Monarch Waystations Update
6. Tree Conservation
7. School Supplies Collection and Reuse Program
8. Pesticide-Free Zone - It was stated that Illinois Foodscrap Coalition may be a resource for this - it was suggested that schools should be included in this conversation
9. Green Business Initiatives
10. Native Plant Initiatives - Suggested that the Train Station/Addington Plaza would be good for this initiative and that Clarendon Hills Train Station is a good example of what could be done

iii. Dark Sky Update

1. Trustee Barker watched two Dark Sky videos on darksky.org and encouraged the group to check them out
2. Barker met with Mayor Gunter and Village Manager May - It was suggested that we should not target any businesses or residents as “bad” examples of over-lighting, while it is not illegal, we need to consider better ways to demonstrate positive and negative lighting
3. Barker talked about Pasquinelli Drive lighting - the Village will be putting in new lighting in specific areas so that people can drive on Pasquinelli and see the difference between various lighting fixtures
4. Barker asked for a staff person from Public Works to be responsible for presenting Dark Sky options for various projects on behalf of the Village when there are new development projects that may need lighting, both private and public
5. Barker stated that the Village Manager suggested that if we can identify the steps to take to become a Dark Sky community, we can potentially begin that process

iv. RFP Update

1. Stanulis has been communicating with Asst. Village Manager Spencer Parker and Patti Mielcarski regarding the EIC's recommendations
2. Stanulis answered various questions from administration staff
 - a. Question about 35 gal containers

- b. Question about aerosol can recycling
 - c. Question from Village about trying to gauge use of composting this past year - it was suggested in the meeting that a community survey tool might assist with gathering that info - it was suggested at the meeting that there could be more education regarding composting opportunities
 - d. Question about construction debris dumpsters - commingled - as an alternative
 - e. Question about fixed fee vs. pay as you throw, similar to Lisle where size of container determined service fee
3. Stanulis suggested that the EIC vote on a clarification amendment to the originally approved RFP recommendation document;
- a. **VOTE:** Motion to amend original document by Gabryel, second by Carlson, approved unanimously by voice vote

v. Flat Can Presentation

- 1. Kat Gordan from Flat Can Recycling was an invited guest and presented info about their recycling program
- 2. Flat Can contact info - 630-546-1715, hello@flatcanrecycling.com; flatcanrecycling.com
- 3. Gordan is the founder and president of Flat Can Recycling
- 4. Flat Can specializes in a niche of recycling products
- 5. They are currently working with Westmont on a few recycled items
- 6. They emphasize that recycling education focus can be more about fun rather than providing education strictly in a written format
- 7. Challenges for recycling include cost, labor and hands-on effort
- 8. Goal is to prevent incineration
- 9. Gordan talked about various special collection events, Year-Round Collections, and using Parks and Facilities
- 10. Gordan recommends drive-through recycling events
- 11. Items they accept include: Propane, compressed gas, latex paint, household batteries, car seats, and aerosol cans
- 12. Their operation is self-sustained and does not rely on volunteers or staff
- 13. Gordan likes the idea of a year-round collection - they set up containers and assist with marketing

14. Gordan listed where things go:
 - a. Metal - Elgin Recycling
 - b. VOCs - Timestrip
 - c. Styrofoam - Dart Container
 - d. Residual Paint - ePaint Recycling
 - e. Plastic Caps and Spray Tips - Granite Peak Plastics - St. Louis
 - f. Batteries - Call2Recycling
15. Aerosol Products, Latex Paint, car seats
16. They do NOT have a path for home fire extinguishers
17. FlatCan does not typically partner with large waste haulers
18. LatCan holds the liability regarding year-round drop-off programs -
If the collection is less than 2500 l
19. Flat Can is open to being part of our local electronic recycling program
20. Flat Can has partnered with Downers Grove
21. They have not had any safety issues
22. Can NOT take oven cleaners, spray foam, spray adhesive
23. Flat Can is interested in working with other locations
24. Located in Kane County
25. Most events are in DuPage
26. All of these items have a fee
27. \$1 per aerosol can collected
28. Will the village potentially subsidize these collections

b. EIC Liaison Report

i. Electronics & More Recycling Event

1. Next event Jan. 21, Recap Dec. 3 event:
2. Very cold
3. 315 cars in total
4. Ran out of promo flyers
5. Feedback from residents is that they want to get rid of batteries
6. eWorks does a great job, great cooperation, there has been good planning for the events
7. Good turnout for lightbulbs, but LEDs can't be recycling
8. Need to have it in our budget for bulb smashing
9. Village can maybe collect lights from Westmont Public Agencies

for bulbsmashing

ii. **Holiday Lights Recycling Program**

1. 6 totes full of recycling lights so far
2. Program in place for a few weeks

iii. **Recycling Contest**

1. Response has been subpar - 6 residents have signed up, 3 Businesses have signed up

iv. **Dark Sky Contest**

1. Will start after Jan. 1

v. **2022 EIC Annual Report Update**

1. Put together annual report for April
2. Work on the schedule to talk before the Village Board, targeting February
3. **ACTION ITEM:** McIntyre will begin working with Gabryel to create annual report

c. **Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Report**

- i. Gabryel presented information from the last meeting
- ii. Wind turbines are only producing $\frac{1}{3}$ of expected electricity output
- iii. GTI working on solutions to deal with methane as well as distribution
- iv. Working on blending of specific gasses, however, it needs to work with existing infrastructure
- v. **ACTION ITEM** - CS2 - website updates - recommended by Gabryel
- vi. **ACTION ITEM** - Review details of next level SolSmart Certification - look for details
- vii. **ACTION ITEM** - Barker thanked Lynn Gorey for their help
- viii. Maercker PTO coordinates the Science Fair

d. **School Liaison Report**

- i. School supplies idea discussed earlier

7. Unfinished Business

- a. None

8. New Business

- a. Motion to add Flat Can to the Jan. 21 Recycling Event - aerosol cans, car seats, paint, batteries
- b. 2023 EIC Recommended Subsidy Programs - Proposal updates at the next meeting
- c. Possibly have training regarding rain barrel installation at Richmond Gardens

9. Misc.

- a. **Plastic Bag Recycling** - Johnson talked about plastic bags jamming up machinery for recyclers
- b. Jan. 21 - There will be a tour at scarce.org. Maybe EIC members can attend
- c. Green Team will have a Green Expo - April 16, 2023 - Sunday morning
- d. Trustee Barker talked about Palo Alto Village Board asked where their waste hauling goes and 60% could not be accounted for
- e. Library planning a Garden Expo
- f. Westmont Gardening Club is looking for ways to cooperatively work with EIC
- g. Bell suggested we consider a SIMS Recycling Tour

10. Adjourn - Motion by Carlson, second by Gabryel, meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

SECRETARY'S NOTE - Minutes approved at the Jan. 9, 2023 meeting.