



PUBLIC NOTICE
Environmental Improvement Committee
Westmont Village Hall - 31 W. Quincy Street - 2nd Floor
September 11, 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/EIC Chair), Larry McIntyre (EIC Village Liaison/Communications Director), Colleen Seisser (EIC Committee/Westmont Library Asst. Director), Glenn Gabryel (EIC Committee), Kimberly Bell (EIC Committee), Carol Johnson (EIC Committee), Marybeth Carlson (EIC Committee), Christa Stanulis (EIC Committee)
ABSENT: Linda Liddle (Village Trustee)
GUESTS: Brenda Ayala, Michelle Coffey
 - a. Minutes were taken by Seisser
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Barker led the group in the pledge of allegiance
4. **Public Comment**
 - a. Brenda (resident):
 - i. Website and expanding on it:
 1. Water department talk about ways to conserve water (other than rain barrels)
 2. Expanding on No Mow, what grasses we should plant other than traditional grass
 3. Links to where to purchase rain barrels, native plants
 - a. Where can I purchase in the community
 4. Connect with people in the community
 - b. Barker/McIntyre reply:
 - i. Barker: Village involvement businesses and in education (includes library)
 1. Education is a big job and piece of what EIC does
 - ii. McIntyre:
 1. Covid impacted programs (ex. rain barrels)
 2. Slowly programs have been returning (ex. electronics recycling in Westmont)
 - a. Resources have been affected, especially Public Works as a resource
 - b. Working to reinstate programs like the rain barrel. Working with Village staff to bring the program back
 - c. Barker added, we also lost logistical support due to Covid program hiatus
 3. ACTION: Water department request: McIntyre will reach out to

Public Works Director to provide more resources to the community regarding conversation

4. Look to the community magazine for articles from EIC and about sustainability
5. ACTION Expanding “no mow”: McIntyre will reach out to Yaeter (runs no mow program). Article for magazine in the spring
6. Local Businesses: Challenge, have to be fair and consistent and cannot show favor. We work with the Chamber of Commerce to ensure that we do so. EIC can reach out to the Chamber for resources of local businesses. Promoting one business would be exceptional and require approval
7. Barker: we have opportunities to work with local businesses around our initiatives, like Dark Skies
8. McIntyre: for magazine, share information with McIntyre so he can include them in the magazine
9. Stanulis: asked about linking from our website, if reputable sources are found can we include them on the website? McIntyre: yes, as any given time it can be added, just has criteria that has to be met (ie. public agency, or we already work with)
10. Stanulis: if Westmont Garden club has recommendations, please share with the EIC committee
11. Johnson: dialog is important, Garden Club should reach out
12. Barker: worked with Connie Phistry (garden club member) regarding EIC and Garden Club connection in the future (Jan/Feb)

5. Minutes

- a. June Minutes: Motion by Gabryel, second by Johnson, approved unanimously by voice vote
- b. August Minutes: Motion by Carlson, second by Bell, approved unanimously by voice vote

6. Reports

- a. Chair Report
 - i. Westmont Garden Club Update
 1. Looking for an invite to the club in the future
 - ii. Question: Waste Hauler RFP
 1. Due Sept 1, extended to Sept 15
 2. Four contractors interested in bidding
 3. Questions that were asked are on the shared page: <https://westmont.illinois.gov/bids.aspx?bidID=37>
 4. One issue: Waste Management wants to stay in Westmont, so not sharing as much in detail
 - iii. Pumpkin composting, Maercker School email question. Barker and/or McIntyre will reply
 - iv. Dark skies:
 1. global conference Nov. 3 & 4, free or donate to participate
 2. Book: [*The Darkness Manifesto*](#) has a copy if someone wants to borrow, Library has it on shelf today
 3. Library to do a Dark Skies display, pull out materials. Seisser will talk with staff. If EIC can provide titles that will help

4. Richmond Gardens grants and Clarke Mosquito
 - a. Two positive West Nile, in traps not human cases
 - b. Village promotes in Summer and Fall for prevention (4 D's of Defense)
 - i. <https://westmont.illinois.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1819>
 - c. Contracting with Clarke for years, put information out to community
 - d. Clarke Mosquito "hotline":
 - i. <https://www.clarke.com/customer-portal/>
 - ii. For spraying notices
 - iii. Stanulis: unfortunate that it coincides with monarch migration. Have spoken with Clarke, spray with
5. Speaker series at the library. Library planning spring programming right now, so the library plans six months in advance. Library needs to know ahead of time, currently planning for 2024-25 sustainability programming every quarter for youth and adults, will likely exceed this (compost week program, Summer reading centered on sustainability themes)
 - a. Seisser sent committee Monarch Fest vendors info for future resources
- b. EIC Liaison Report
 - i. Programs & Events
 1. Village Emails
 - a. Make sure Village email is in working order because McIntyre will no longer use personal email
 2. Village of Westmont EIC/Environmental PR During The Last Month
 - a. Garden Club -
 - b. Dark Sky Grant -
 - c. Special Recycling Event -
 - d. West Nile Virus Update -
 - e. Richmond Gardens Grant -
 - f. Monarch Festival
 - g. Paper Shred Event -
 - h. Drug Take Back Event -
 3. Special Recycling Event - Sept. 23
 - a. In parking lot across the street from Village Hall
 - b. Map shared, route described by McIntyre. Location for EIC volunteers identified
 - c. EMA will be working traffic control
 - d. ACTION: McIntyre will request another stop sign placed at Quincy and Grant for the exit. Sign will be for traffic going westbound on Quincy
 - e. Johnson: from experience—EIC members should not stand at a turn, only straight aways, because it distracts the drivers
 - f. McIntyre added engagement should be minimal due to

short route format

- g. Johnson asked about counting and yes.
- h. Volunteers: 8-10am, 10-noon
 - i. 8-10am shift: Stanulis, Carlson
 - ii. 10-noon shift: Bell, Gabryel
- 4. Wicked West Fest - Oct. 21 - Pumpkin Toss Game - Work on promotion, prizes and physical game (buckets, little foam pumpkins to toss, etc.) - Prizes: Candy and PR for pumpkin composting
 - a. Passing out PR about composting
 - b. Activity: grand prize game with styrofoam pumpkin toss into buckets for kids
 - i. Offline conversation for putting game together
 - ii. Bell: Wipes and disinfectant for game
 - c. Candy giveaway
 - d. Johnson idea: carved pumpkin with counted seeds inside a container: how many seeds inside the pumpkin? Game
 - i. Winner at end of the day
 - ii. Drawing needs name and contact information
 - iii. Something good for the table with our information
 - e. Carlson idea: plastic pumpkin filled with fake spider webs and have objects that they feel around for
 - i. Likely not because of lots of hands
 - f. Volunteers
 - i. Trick or Treat Trail 11-1pm
 - ii. Volunteers: Carlson, Bell,
- 5. Pumpkin Composting - Nov. 4. At the library parking lot
 - a. Due to liability concerns, no student volunteers will be part of this event (includes Wicked West Fest)
 - b. Set it up in such a way that limits EIC volunteer physical contact
 - c. EMA role - traffic direction; EIC role - make sure pumpkins are debris-free and answer questions
 - d. Participants should get out of their cars and throw the pumpkin in if they can, otherwise put pumpkin on a table, and EIC can throw it in
 - e. ACTION: Carlson: question—can we promote composting at home, most important to not throw in garbage to landfill? McIntyre will add a couple of sentences to promotional materials
 - f. ACTION Johnson: has a flier for where to recycle pumpkins. Has placed them where the pumpkins are sold. Can we make a poster? McIntyre will work to make a poster to disperse to where the pumpkins are sold
 - g. Volunteers to be determined in October meeting
- 6. West Nile Virus Update - Two positive tests in Westmont in the last 2 weeks -
 - ii. 2024 Meeting Schedule: no changes anticipated, should have more at

next meeting

- c. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Report–Gabryel
 - i. No agenda issued
 - ii. Electric Vehicle readiness program collab between Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and ComEd
 - 1. Meeting growing demand for EV and Charging infrastructure
 - iii. Submit our community as a cohort, for EV charging. Westmont was aware but did not submit
 - 1. Program included cost structures
 - 2. Westmont will likely be engaged by ComEd at some point
 - iv. Comed proposing municipalities move from offering free service to direct payment to the municipality
 - 1. Still paying Comed for the power provided
 - v. Waiting on more information to be shared
 - vi. Stanulis: there is a precedence, asked previously and that occurred with Nicor.
 - 1. Happened about 5 years ago
- d. School Liaison Report
 - i. Sent emails to schools in Westmont:
 - 1. Communicate about EIC activities as FYI, to promote
 - 2. Opportunities for participate
 - 3. Input for EIC
 - 4. To learn about what schools are doing
 - 5. Club interested in learning more about why EIC does what we do
 - a. EIC member could visit club
 - 6. Also asked about science clubs
 - ii. Heard back from Maercker, High School
 - 1. High school students are interested in cleaning up natural areas
 - a. McIntyre: advised to connect with Bob Fleck at the Park District. Mention about river sweep
 - b. Barker: schools can join river sweep without EIC connect
 - c. Stanulis: Lymon woods is an option
 - 2. High School hosted a farmers market 9/8
 - a. From school garden
 - 3. McIntyre: school has PR person, maybe invite schools to EIC meeting to present about their activities so that can lead to new stories.
 - a. Activities have to be reported to EIC so Village can do a story
 - 4. Barker: Do all schools have Earth Flag? Suggests that they look into earning [other flags \(ecology, water quality\)](#) or renewing their current flag
 - 5. Carlson: Is there a 4H chapter in Westmont? Carlson will reach out to find a contact and will send to McIntyre
 - a. Coffey adds: Manning has chicken, garden clubs
 - b. Previously only agriculture, now includes many more activities like robotics
 - c. 4H kickoff on Sept 28 for DuPage

7. Unfinished Business

- a. none

8. New Business

- a. none

9. Misc.

- a. Barker: sent via email earlier today (will resend to EIC members email)—video, *What is Beyond the Edge of the Universe?* Ties into Dark Skies
- b. ACTION Gabryel: Adding EPA links for food scraps and waste prevention
- c. Gabryel: asked about meeting notices for cancellations? That was from updating the meetings from personal emails to the Village emails. You will get notices
- d. Seisser: will not attend October meeting, minutes need to be reassigned
- e. Stanulis:
 - i. EIC received questions about Dark Skies—Stanulis will work to provide answers
 - ii. Any other entries for Dark Skies entries? McIntyre: Yes, there are six more since re-promotion. McIntyre will work with Stanulis to answer questions
 - iii. Business grant incentive program? Barker: will revisit and provide and update. There is a small amount of funds but looking towards safety and facade. Dark Skies is likely a part of it, but the details are still being worked out. Will be rolled out in the future. Working on adding more value than previous programs—have to compete with our neighbors to show value of Westmont
 - iv. 2022 Water Report, items shown from 2017—How often are measurements taken?
 - 1. McIntyre: Public Works and Water Division. McIntyre not involved. EPA required testing
 - 2. ACTION: Stanulis to send questions to McIntyre who will forward directly to Public Works Director for answers
 - 3. Barker: previous director assured Village that Westmont tests more often than required. Should compare previous reports to current ones to make sure that standard is still met
- f. Gabryel: next MMC meeting next Tuesday, open meeting (2pm) at Environmental Museum in Chicago, near Union Station

- 10. Adjourn-** Motion by Stanulis, second by Johnson, approved unanimously by voice vote, 7:30 pm

NOTE - These minutes approved at the Oct. 2, 2023 meeting