

Meeting - Environmental Improvement Commission

June 16, 2014, 6:00 PM

Westmont Village Hall - Second Floor

31 W. Quincy Street, Westmont, Illinois 60559

Minutes – FINAL

- ## 1. Call To Order

- ## 2. Roll Call:

- Present:

- M. Gabryel P J. Sopak P
- G. Gabryel P 6:10 arrival A. Spencer P
- K. Lombardozzi P T. Tieche P
- M. McAuliffe P R. Van Hyfte P
- P. Ristau P 6:40 arrival

- Staff:

- L. McIntyre P

- **VOTING KEY: A=ABSENT AB=ABSTAIN N=NO W=Withdrawn**

- **P=PRESENT Y=YES V=VACATION**

- ### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

- #### 4. Reports / Updates

- a. 2010 Climate Action Plan Update

G. Gabryel provided a preliminary updated based on department head from police, fire and public works 2012 and 2013 reports.

Within the 24 recommendations, the strongest area of attainment seems to be under Municipal Operations Strategies particularly with respect to vehicle fleet management, though some details such as actual use of E-85 fuel is inconclusive. Also good is Village wide water management at the various buildings and procurement and operation of electrical equipment and devices. Attainment is less apparent with respect to Village building conformance to SEDAC and other

standards however there have been some important retro-fits of existing facilities. A limiting factor is that Westmont has few if any new building projects pending. Also the referenced energy audits may not have been done, recently or at all. The impacts of these and other Municipal points requires further inquiry as not every department head offered comment in their 2012 / 13 reports to the Mayor.

Attainment against the Community Strategies items are comparatively weaker or subject to interpretation, many of these being less objective in nature or involving residential or business locations where the Village would only have an advisory capacity, or function as a provider of information. Any consideration of new building codes would have to be carefully discussed for practicality and similar to municipal construction, is constrained by Westmont being largely built-out with comparatively few tear-downs while new business construction is often already based on energy efficiency and management design.

The EIC may want to consider development of an update to the 2010 CAP recommendations in order to delete some subjective points while adding specific and actionable items such as “green” purchasing and maintenance policies, consideration of cost effective solar power installations (for either water heating or electrical generation) and especially study the current status of multi-family recycling options and recovery rate. However in my opinion this should be deferred to the 2nd half of the year due to the heavy workload staff already has connected with the Storm Water referendum and other activities.

M. McAuliffe agreed to investigate what other types of energy efficient vehicles other communities have purchased

b. Community Gardening

A. Spencer went on the May 28th tour of 9 garden sites including schools and community gardens. Several were churches with large lots.

The common operating rules include no herbicides and pesticides, fixed start and end dates, no corn (shade concerns) and getting approval of neighbor plot owners in order to have a fence. During the tour, no one identified parking as a concern.

Some plots all the produce went to charity.

Tel Labs offer plots to employees and have a meter on a fire hydrant with hose connection to supply water to the site.

Fees for plots can range up to \$50 per season.

Next steps:

Obtain an update of the park district's research on community gardens.

Identification of locations other than village owned sites and team up with local churches, schools or private businesses.

Ideas include:

- Sentinel Park (potential for garden and stormwater management)
- Westhills Community Church (Off of Cass east on 55th)
- Burgess Square (58th and Cass) – consider handicap accessible garden for this location
- Maecker Elementary School (58th and Cass)
- (Note: none of these locations were discussed with the property owners)

Action Item

- Spencer distribute a summary report of his tour with the commission members
- T. Tieche will reach out to R. Fleck at the park district to get an update on how their review of community gardens.

c. "Green" Business Recognition Program & Community Recycling Promotion

The last time a similar program in the village was approximately 3 years ago at the DuPage County's request.

Action Item:

L. McIntyre to prepare the materials to promote the program for the following categories

- Small business
- Large business
- Resident
- Multi-unit Residential

L. McIntyre to supply the document link via email this week for the commission members to confirm their approval of the program or provide suggested changes. Commission

members need to provide timely feedback to get this information into the next Neighbors magazine August newsletter.

The materials should include links to the village and county based recycling programs and focus on "Reduction of Resources"

L. McIntyre to contact Waste Management to coordinate prize award.

L. McIntyre to create press release

- d. 2014 Electronics Recycling Program Update – Surveys
In 2013 approximately 40 tons of electronics were diverted from the landfills. In May 2014 approximately 4.5 tons were collected which was down from 6.3 tons in May 2013.

Commission agreed that surveys would be helpful. If possible collect e-mail addresses from residents that might be interested in being part of a focus group or become active in future environmental programs.

Village will be focusing on code enforcement on fly dumping (electronics and other items)

The suggestion was made to expand the program to include the month of January as individuals most likely would want to dispose of old electronics that are replaced by holiday gifts.

Add to the event fluorescent light bulb pick up (identified in the village contract with Waste Management) to the electronics recycling event.

The village working to determine a location for a drop off of needles (Sharps pick up identified in the village contract with Waste Management).

Action Item:

L. McIntyre will contact DuPage County and other entities to extend the pickup in to January for disposal of replacement products associated with holiday season.

L. McIntyre will work to implement the fluorescent light bulb pick up for the period September to December the same dates as the Electronics Recycling events.

K. Lombardozzi and M. Gabryel will prepare survey for residents and chamber of commerce members.

e. "Green" Information on Village Website & Community Publicity Campaign - List of Recycling Specifics

- Website has been update based on areas identified by K. Lombardozzi, M. Gabryel and A. Spencer provided suggested updates to the sites that have been implemented.
- The Recycling and Waste Hauling webpage received approximately 975 page views for the year to date period thru mid-May.
- Suggested the village web page be update site for specifics on what is picked up as part of the curbside recycling program.
- G. Gabryel suggested having Waste Management do a presentation or report on volumes collected and where the product is going.
- Commission members to provide comments or questions by Monday for Mary to consolidate questions to Larry.
- Action Items:
 - A. Spencer to contact Waste Management for a direct link to the list of curbside recyclables.
 - B. Commissioners to provide M. Gabryel will a list of questions for Waste Management we would like to be addressed in a presentation. Provide list by Monday 6/23
 - C. L. McIntyre to coordinate a presentation with Waste Management and coordinate if appropriate to have the presentation taped or televised.

f. Special Recycling & Other Programs - Paper Shredding, Batteries, Light Bulbs, etc.

- Refer to comments above in section 2014 Electronics Recycling Program
- Work with Chamber to identify business that offer recycling and promote these businesses.
 - Suggestion was made to have the village website linked to Chamber of Commerce website

to highlight local businesses who offer waste reduction opportunities for residents.

g. Grant Writing - Establishing Needs & Priorities

- Kay McKeen of Scarce volunteer to assist us in this effort.
- The commission will need to determine areas of focus on before we go apply for grants. May need to partner with other organizations to take advantage of grants.

h. Food Scrap Composting

- L. McIntyre obtained preliminary costs estimates.
- Can be incorporated into our current yard waste program, food compost can be combined with yard waste. Combined food and yard waste would need to be placed in a rigid container.
- Yard waste sticker would be required for the months April –October (November is free; two bags/containers) and a fee of \$14 per month for the 4 winter months (December – March).
- A minimum of 200 residents would need to sign up in order to start a program.

5. New Items

a. Electric Aggregation Contract

On June 13, the village announced the electric contract will revert back to Com Ed.

b. EIC Presence at Community Events - RWBBQ, Street Fair, Taste of Westmont, etc.

Taste of Westmont (July 11- 13) – is giving the village a 10 by 10ft space to be shared by various village entities.

EIC would be represented. Suggested a survey and collect e-mail addresses for residents

- Survey interest in food composting and community garden programs.
- Educate the public on the monthly electronics recycling the 2nd Friday of each month.
- Motion
 - The EIC recommends a \$75 voucher (local restaurant) / cash be obtained as an incentive to obtain e-mail address of residents interested in environmental matters and resource reduction

- Vote:
 - Ayes: M. Gabryel, G. Gabryel, K. Lombardozzi, M McAuliffe, J. Sopak, P. Ristau, A. Spencer, T. Tieehe R. Van Hyfte
 - Nays: None

c. Work with Chamber of Commerce on EIC initiatives
Survey

Suggested EIC have a dedicated liason with the Chamber

Action Item:

- Bob Van Hyfte to contact the Chamber and coordinate efforts of the EIC
- T. Tieche volunteered to assist with any analysis

d. Plastic Bag Ban

- G. Gabryel contacted the Downers Grove sanitary district ("DGSD") to inquire if plastic bags are causing and problems for the system. DGSD reported no issues with the plastic bags but more problems with baby and personal wipes. In addition, an inquire was made to the Westmont village engineer who reported no major issues with plastic bags in the storm drains.
- EIC commission members noted more businesses asking customers if they want a bag for purchases to limit the number of bags.

e. Environmental preferable purchasing program and waste
Characterization study

Permission received from village manager for a waste characterization study of the village hall. K. Lombardozzi agreed to conduct the study.

Actions Items:

K. Lombardozzi to prepare a short summary to describe the study and assistance of the village employees required. Target completion before next EIC meeting August 11

L. McIntyre to coordinate a date for the study.

f. Diversion of Construction Materials

K. Lombardozzi reported that other local communities do not have an ordinance mainly time constraints and short staffing.

K. Lombardozzi also suggest the village consider encouraging environmentally responsible building under International green construction codes (IgCC)or LEED.

Action Item:

- K. Lombardozzi will send commission members links to educate the group on this topic.

6. Misc. / Action Plans

a. Delegation of Tasks

Assignments noted above.

b. Volunteer Sign-up for Taste

Action Item:

L. McIntyre to send out sign-up list.

c. A motion was made to approve the commissions meeting minutes for the meeting held on April 7th.

• Vote:

- Ayes: M. Gabryel, G. Gabryel, K. Lombardozzi, M McAuliffe, J. Sopak, P. Ristau, A. Spencer, T. Tieehe R. Van Hyfte
- Nays: None

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.