

Meeting - Environmental Improvement Commission

December 7, 2015,

6:00 PM Westmont Village Hall - Second Floor

31 W. Quincy Street, Westmont, Illinois 60559

MINUTES - Final

1. Call To Order - Kim Lombardoizzi called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. Roll Call - In attendance: Glenn Gabryel, Mary Gabryel, Kim Lombardoizzi, Mary McAuliffe, Pam Ristau, Jon Sopcak, Tyler Tieche and Bob Van Hyfte (arrived 6:08)
Staff in attendance: Larry McIntyre, Jon Yeater (Public Works) Guests in attendance: Barbara Alvarez (Westmont Public Library), Erin Kennedy (Scarce)
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Kim Lombardoizzi.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes - **Motion: A motion was made by Pam Ristau to approve the meeting minutes from the November 2, 2015 meeting. The motion was second by Jon Sopcak and unanimously approved by voice vote.**
5. Reports / Updates
 - a. EIC Presence at Community Events Update
 - Pumpkin composting Nov 2-7 approximately 3,000 pounds collected. The Saturday collection was assisted by Maercker School Ecology Group
 - Cooking oil collection Nov 28th approximately 48 gallons collected from 7 individuals
 - Holly Day Parade and Ugly Sweater 5K race Nov 28. Both events handed out flyers. Next year need to find a better ways to attach candy to the card. Approximately 500 flyers were distributed.
Holiday Light recycling thru the end of January at the south Fire Station.
Action Item:
 - **Add signage to direct residents to the container. Currently not marked.**
 - **Contact the Fire Department to see if they would be willing to continue being good stewards of the community and hosting future recycling collection events.**
 - b. 2015 / 2016 Goals & Budget Update
 - Expenditures to date approximately \$100. Signage has been produced by

the Public Works department at not direct costs to the EIC budget and flyers have been printed by the village staff.

- **Action Item:**
- **For the January 4th meeting submit ideas for 2016/17 budget.**

c. New Climate Action Plan Update

- Update in 2016
- Use Cool DuPage to assist with update
- Goals should be measurable
- Elmhurst has a taskforce working on a climate action plan.
- Carol Stream is working to get approval for the Cool DuPage resolution

- **Action Item: Will work on the update in 2016.**

d. Guest Speakers Schedule Update

- March – Need to confirm date for speaker on Native Plants
- April 4th –Speaker Vic Zaderej on Sustainable Homes and Year-Round Indoor Gardening
- April 12th – Mold and Radon

- **Action Items:**

- Barbara Alvarez will coordinate with the Library to arrange for addition into the Library newsletter and meeting rooms. Barbara needs whatever speaker info we have by Friday if we would like it to get into the Library Newsletter.
- Kim Lombardozzi, Tyler Tieche, Pam Ristau and Jon Yeater to coordinate dates and times with the speakers they have arranged.

6. Old Business

a. Energy audit of Westmont building

- A Village energy audit was done about 3 years ago, so no audit will be planned at this time

b. Cool City DuPage Resolution

- **Motion: Mary McAuliffe made a motion that the EIC recommends to the village board the approval of the Cool DuPage resolution presented below. The motion was second by Glenn Gabryel and unanimously approved by voice vote.**

- **ACCEPTANCE OF COOL DUPAGE INITIATIVE AND GOALS AS A CHARTER COMMUNITY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DUPAGE COUNTY**
- **WHEREAS, the Village of Westmont and the County of DuPage are seeking common goals under the April 14, 2015 DuPage County Energy Conservation and Air Quality Improvement Plan; and**
- **WHEREAS, the goal of Cool DuPage is to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions ten percent by 2020 and twenty percent by 2030 based on the 2007 levels as calculated in the DuPage Energy and Emissions Profile; and**
- **WHEREAS, the Village of Westmont endeavors to reduce resident and business' energy costs while improving air quality and determines that it is in the interest of the Village of Westmont to undertake such activities to improve air quality and reduce energy consumption; and**
- **WHEREAS, the Village of Westmont has reviewed the DuPage County Energy Conservation and Air Quality Improvement Plan and recommends approval and adoption of this resolution at the Charter Community level to actively work towards the goals and strategies set forth in the aforementioned plan; and**
- **WHEREAS, the Village of Westmont will strive to achieve the baseline recommendations provided by Cool DuPage within publically owned buildings and within the community; and**
- **WHEREAS, DuPage County, under the auspices of Cool DuPage will assist the Village of Westmont through technical assistance, when appropriate, to reach baseline recommendations and goals as adopted within the DuPage County Energy Conservation and Air Quality Improvement Plan;**
- **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Westmont hereby enters into an active partnership with and adopts the goals of the Cool DuPage initiative; and**
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Westmont desires to be listed as an active partner on the County's Cool DuPage website and in any applicable publications and social media supporting Cool DuPage.**

- c. GMO labeling resolution
- Opposition of a proposed federal law that seeks to limit State and local government authority
 - Motion: A motion is made by Mary McAuliffe to approve the GMO resolution of the EIC as noted below.
 - **The Village of Westmont Environmental Improvement Commission ("EIC") opposes proposed federal legislation that limits State and local governments from exercising traditional police powers.**
 - **WHEREAS, earlier this year, the United States House of Representatives passed bill H.R. 1599, the "Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act," that is now under consideration in the United States Senate. As written, H.R. 1599 has sweeping preemptive effect, and could negate over 130 existing statutes, regulations, and ordinances in 43 states at the state and municipal level.**
 - **WHEREAS, it also deprives consumers of their right to receive information concerning the presence of genetically engineered ("GE") ingredients in foods. This federal overreach takes away local governments' ability to enact measures to address a local government's specific cultural, agricultural, and ecological issues. These issues have long been recognized as falling under local governments' traditional police powers; and**
 - **WHEREAS, food manufacturers have always had to comply with state food safety and labeling laws. For example, Illinois has a law limiting the amount of lead in all food; and**
 - **WHEREAS, supporters of H.R. 1599 claim that allowing states to pass GE labeling laws would create a patchwork of state laws with different language and different requirements. However, all of the state GE labeling laws passed or introduced have been written following the same model. This model stipulates that foods containing GMOs, or produced with genetic engineering, include these four words on their labels: "produced with genetic engineering"; and**
 - **WHEREAS, more than 30 states, including the State of Illinois, have introduced legislation to require GE labeling, with GE labeling laws**

recently passed in Vermont, Connecticut and Maine. At least 64 countries require GE food labeling and none have not reported higher food costs as a result; and

- **WHEREAS, the EIC sees no reason to allow the federal government to prohibit the State of Illinois or any local government from considering whether certain information of interest to our citizens may be required as part of food labeling.**
- **THEREFORE, the EIC opposes a proposed federal law that prohibits States and local governments from labeling genetically engineered food.**
- **This motion as second by Bob Van Hyfte. A roll call vote was conducted.**
- **Ayes: Mary Gabryel, Mary McAuliffe, Pam Ristau, Jon Sopcak, and Bob Van Hyfte**
- **Nays: Glenn Gabryel, Tyler Tieche**
- **Abstention: Kim Lombardozzi**

7. New Business

a. Coal Tar Product Use Resolution

- Preface: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is a scientific agency of the United States government. The USGS is a fact-finding research organization with no regulatory responsibility. Its scientists study the landscape of the United States, its natural resources, and the hazards that threaten it. On Oct 15th the USGS hosted a symposium at Benedictine University attended by a Village staff member, concerning the environmental and human health risks associated with coal-tar based materials commonly used to seal asphalt pavement surfaces. Coal tar type sealants often contain elevated levels of PAH (polyaromatic hydrocarbons). These compounds have been identified as having toxic, mutagenic and / or carcinogenic properties that can cause severe biological effects in humans and aquatic organisms. PAHs can be liberated from the sealant through normal abrasive wear caused by vehicle traffic and snow clearing operations. The resulting particles migrate into soils, the local water table, stream and lake sediments, house dust and air within the community.

- **Motion:** Due to the significant, credible and detailed scientific literature outlining the environmental and health /safety hazards of coal tar sealants used in coating asphalt pavement, the Westmont Environmental Improvement Commission recommends to the Village Staff to amend all Village specifications, ordinances and RFP formats connected with pavement sealer contracting to prohibit the use of Coal Tar type pavement sealant (typically 20-35% by content of coal tar or coal-tar pitch) from being applied to Village properties. Further, any material so applied should have a PAH (polyaromatic hydrocarbon) content not to exceed 50mg/kg.
- The above motion was made by Glenn Gabryel and seconded by Bob Van Hyfte and unanimously approved by voice vote.
- **Action Item:** Larry McIntyre to research interest in expanding the above to the public.

b. 2016 River Sweep May 21, 2016

- The sweep is conducted in association with the Conservation Foundation
- Tentatively Saturday May 21 9am to noon
- Glenn Gabryel and Mary McAuliffe to coordinate EIC participation in this event.

- **Action Items:** Larry McIntyre to obtain contact information.
- Contact Westmont First and Chamber of Commerce for volunteers

8. Misc. / Action Items

- Arbor Day Events include in the budget
- **Action Item:**
- **Determine EIC expenses for this event**
- Dinner with Mayor and Village Manager No Monday or Tuesday
- On December 10th Barbara Alvarez and Erin Kennedy will be considered by the village board for a position as a member of EIC.
- The Mayor appointed Kim Lombardozzi as EIC Chairperson.
- The EIC thanked Jon Sopcak for his contributions to the commission and his efforts at the annual Holly Days parade. This was Jon's last meeting.



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- Next meeting Monday January 4, 2016 at Village Hall

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Kim Lombardozzi, seconded Tyler Tieche and unanimously approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.