

Environment & Energy Commission
Minutes of the March 12, 2013 Meeting
Village Hall, Room 130

PRESENT: Commissioners: Laura Haussmann, Mac Robinet, Bob Peterson, Carolyn Cullen, Nick Bridge, Peter Hugh and Hanna Kwiecinska. High School student Liz Klinke attended as an observer

ABSENT: Brian Chang

STAFF: Karen Rozmus

Item K. Review Comprehensive Plan workshop notes, was added to the agenda. The February 5 minutes were approved. Nick Bridge abstained as he was not in attendance at the February meeting.

Chairperson's Report: Laura Haussmann reported that the EEC sponsored the film "Water of Life" during the Green Community Connections film festival. The screening also included the winning high school entry made by a girl in Lincoln Park. The film focused on the Great Lakes. During the discussion following the film, audience concerns were noted such as dredging, corporate dumping and zebra mussels. Laura stated that there are scientists working with new bacteria that may combat the mussels. Village actions should include raising rates or giving "conservation" credits and showing usage with charts to compare with neighbors and educating students.

Staff Reports: Monthly reports were submitted by Karen Rozmus and K.C. Poulos. Karen also distributed the annual refuse and recycling report. She stated that there are currently 236 households signed up for the expanded food scrap composting collection program which will begin in April.

Guest: Tammie Grossman, Oak Park Housing Manager, gave an update on the Nicor Community Challenge. Oak Park is leading Evanston in the challenge and residents are encouraged to visit Energy Buzz to sign-up. If Oak Park wins the challenge, the prize money will be given to the West Cook YMCA, the winner of a community online vote. Currently Oak Park leads the state in the number of Impact IL energy audits. The OPRF Community Foundation has granted funds to be used for rebates to residents getting energy audits (\$50) or installing low-flow toilets (\$100). Tammie will have a table at Earth Fest to distribute low-flow shower heads and aerators.

Discussion Items

- A. Tabling: Laura highlighted all water related check list items and will check in with Betsy. Karen will highlight these items and print the checklist for handouts. Peter asked if items such as this could be given a "QR" symbol to link to items on the Village website.
- B. CMAP Water Conservation Plan: Scheduled for adoption at the April 1 Board meeting.
- C. Pesticide Survey: There hasn't been action on this item. Karen stated that she is working with the Health Department to update the Village's Integrated Pest Management Plan. Laura asked that this item be renamed to IPM Update.

- D. Burn Ordinance: Karen will follow up with the Legal department.
- E. PlanItGreen: Laura will ask KC to provide an update on the status of the “scorecard” being prepared.
- F. Green Community Connections Update: Peter reported that the Film Fest was a great success with over 2,000 attendees at many different venues. It was more widely advertised this year.
- G. White Roofs: Mac sent copies of the brochure to Karen to forward to the HPC. Laura also talked to K.C. about this initiative to address long-term global warming and inclusion in the comprehensive plan. Mac reported that the Gilbert, CA comprehensive plan includes sustainability items.
- H. EEC Environmental Plan Update: Karen will update this document and distribute when completed.
- I. Geothermal Projects - Village Hall: Nothing to report at this time.
- J. HPC Guidelines: Mac and Hanna attended the last meeting. HPC is planning to have focused meetings on windows and new building codes.
- K. Review Comprehensive Plan Workshop: Laura read a letter she drafted outlining the issues raised by EEC members at the last meeting. Karen asked Tammie to explain the planned process which will include in-depth focus groups for each topic category. Craig Failor will contact all village commissions to ask members to participate. A motion to send Laura’s letter with the EEC workshop notes was approved by unanimous vote. Karen will send out an outline of EEC issues for members to review and discuss at the April meeting.

New Business: Carolyn reported that she updated many items in the Recycling Resource Guide “Beyond the Bin”. Karen will work with Carolyn to finalize the updated document.

The first Green Tuesday session is scheduled for April 2 so members voted to reschedule the next meeting to Wednesday, April 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Rozmus