

Environment and Energy Commission

Minutes of the June 3, 2014 meeting

Village Hall, Room 130

Present: Nick Bridge, Bill Burns, Alex Frank, Bob Peterson, Townsend Bailey, Hanna Kwiecinska, Carolyn Cullen(electronically)

Absent: Peter Hugh, Caitlin Jeffries

The May 6 minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairperson Report: EEC Chair Bridge reported that he had attended a PlanIt Green Core Team meeting on May 20, during which diminution of funding by Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation for the 10 year PlanItGreen effort was discussed. The completion of a 6-week pilot study of residential food waste was also noted, but no results had yet been compiled. It was also announced that \$740,000 in grants were acquired by the village for the Smart City USA project(These require a match by our Korean Partners in the project). Applications for participants in the Smart City USA project are still being accepted, Bridge said. Bridge also reminded members of a program to be held June 16 at the Oak Park Public Library on biological effects of low level pesticide mixtures and common chemical exposures.

Staff Reports: A staff report from Karen Rosmus was accepted.

Public Comments: None

Guests: Potential EEC member Michael O'Rourke attended the meeting at the suggestion of the Citizens Involvement Commission.

Discussion Items

Green Awards Date: A brief discussion the the green awards took place, wherein it was noted that a tentative date of November 20 had been selected. Bob Peterson agreed to contact committee chairs for the Community Design and Historic Preservation Commissions to confirm that date. Bob Peterson and Townsend Bailey both noted that any nominees should be persons who have obtained tangible results. There was general consensus that the August 29 date for accepting awards should be pushed back at least a month to give more time for finding qualified nominees.

Tabling Events Review: Feedback on the two tabling events held over the weekend at the Farmers Market and Day in Our Village were generally positive. The possibility of adding a few questions to the Environmental Game was briefly noted by Chairman Bridge. It was generally agreed that further tabling events could be held if there was a compelling purpose.

Work Plan Tasks: A discussion of the LED street lighting initiative was held. EEC Chair Bridge reported that approximately \$650,000 was initially planned for budgeting f

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for conversion of the Harrison Street Arts District to LEDs. This figure is inconclusive, however, as village staff is still evaluating the cost of the program. Chair Bridge also reported that in a brief discussion with the village administrator in Forest Park he had learned that \$1.5 million had been spent there for conversion of about 1200 street lights to LEDs and that the cost savings in energy and maintenance was paying for the financing of the initiative. The lights chosen for Forest Park are of a high Kelvin rating and more like daylight in their spectrum. This makes them brighter and cheaper, but may not be the best quality of light in residential areas, Bridge said. Commissioner Burns said a mix of Kelvin ratings might be best, depending on vehicular traffic volume and speed. Commissioner Burns also passed out charts depicting energy usage during 2013 in Oak Park broken down by types of users. It was noted that street lights amount to less than 1 % of the village's total electrical usage at this time. The possibility of the Harrison Street initiative being metered as on discrete account and thereby allowing for better evaluation of costs was also noted. Bridge said more information on the Harrison Street project would be forthcoming, which would aid the commission in making a recommendation to the village board.

Adjourn: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Bridge