

Environment & Energy Commission
Minutes of the January 6, 2015 Meeting
Village Hall, Room 130

PRESENT: Commissioners: Nick Bridge, Bob Peterson, Carolyn Cullen, Peter Hugh, Hanna Kwiecinska, Bill Burns, Michael O'Rourke and Trustee Ott

ABSENT: Commissioners: Townsend Bailey, Alex Frank attended by phone

STAFF: Karen Rozmus

The December 2 minutes were amended and approved unanimously.

Chairperson Report: EEC Chair Bridge reported that he attended a meeting of the PlanItGreen core team to discuss developing a Sustainability organization. He stated that Village Manager Cara Pavlicek and Trustee Ott want the discussion to continue.

Chair Bridge also reported that Green Community Connections is hosting a Sustainability Network session at the Library on January 27. Presentations will begin at 6:00 pm and will include members of the River Forest Commission, Wild Ones and Sugar Beet. Alex asked Nick to forward the announcement to members.

Staff Reports: Staff report from Karen Rozmus was accepted. She also reported that the free Rain Barrel program sponsored by MWRD will be going to the Board for approval on Jan. 20.

Public Comment: Residents Bruce and Julie Samuels commented on concerns they have with creating a Sustainability organization which would add a layer of process to projects going forward.

Guests: Resident Andrew Basney observed the meeting as a commission candidate.

Discussion Items

A. Plastic Bag Ordinance

Commissioner Cullen will develop a timeline for gathering input and making a recommendation. Karen reported that Loretta Daly reviewed the business survey and Patrick Rollens is working to place both surveys online.

B. Sustainability Organization

Chair Bridge related Commissioner Bailey's experience with forming a similar organization. Chair Bridge stated that, if such an organization were formed, he would like to see a well-rounded board representing the many community groups and include a Village Board member as well as a staff person. Commissioner Hugh voiced concerns about adding a "layer of bureaucracy" to environmental initiatives. Trustee Ott stated that the goal is to form a board and hire a full time employee as Executive Director. Village staff is looking at how to organize and fund such as organization and what process is needed going forward. Trustee Ott asked EEC to make a recommendation to the Board in February.

C. Pesticide Awareness

Karen asked if EEC would like to host a Green Tuesday session to screen A Chemical Reaction. EEC will make a final decision at the February meeting. Members agreed that outreach efforts should focus on students and young people to participate.

D. Tabling Schedule

Karen reported that Earth Fest will be held on Saturday, April 25.

E. Review 2015 Work Plan

Nothing at this time.

New Business

Commissioner Hugh provided information on recycling single-use batteries at a store in the mall at Harlem & North Ave. called Batteries & Bulbs. Karen will add this to the next update of the resource guide.

Adjourn: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Rozmus