

**DOWNERS GROVE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**March 10, 2016**

I. Roll Call

There being no chair, a motion was made by Commissioner Getz to nominate Commissioner Marron as Chair for the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Salman, passed by a voice vote

Acting Chair Marron called for a roll call:

Present: Commissioner Getz, Commissioner Marron, Commissioner Riley, Commissioner Salman

Absent: Chairman Pellosso, Commissioner McCann, Visitor Welcome

II. Visitor Welcome

Acting Chair Marron asked for introductions at the meeting and each commissioner introduced themselves. Visitor Mr. Rich Zizek, of the Downers Grove Park District introduced himself as he was there for the Green Business Recognition program. Ms. Jo Potts, a resident was also in attendance.

III. View and Approval of December 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Acting Chair Marron asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Salman made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Getz seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Minutes approved.

IV. Staff update on ongoing projects

Ms. Miles updated the commission that the Police Department was doing a trial run for prescription drop-offs on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1pm and confirmed it was still by appointment. Ms. Miles did remind the commissioners that the December minutes containing their motion regarding the prescription drug program would be on the next council meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Miles also said she would report back on statistics after that Saturday trial run.

Ms. Miles also mentioned the downtown recycling program and that the Village was currently looking into what kind of containers to acquire. Ms. Miles said the 15 total containers would be placed strategically in the downtown in high-traffic areas. The

Village will look to the ECC and the community for feedback after the program is launched. The launch date of this recycling program is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Miles was not sure of the exact container style yet, but they would be obvious to recycling and likely contain the blue recycling color.

V. New Business

- Green Business Presentation – Downers Grove Park District

Acting Chair Marron introduced Mr. Zizek of the Downers Grove Park District to make his Green Business Presentation. Mr. Zizek began his presentation by reviewing the green business application submitted to the ECC.

Mr. Zizek stated he is the chair of the Park District Green Committee and listed the Green Business Recognition as one of the Park District's main goals and an opportunity to work with the Village.

Mr. Zizek then briefly went through some of the things the Park District has done for green efforts:

At the Park District's monthly board meetings, they are no longer using paper and have initiated electronic documentation.

Holiday tree recycling – Mr. Zizek said this has been done for the last three years at McCollum Park and Whitlock Park. Last year, over 120 trees were chipped down and then used in parks. Mr. Zizek said this complements the Village's light recycling program.

Battery recycling – the Park District has had this program for about the last five years and Mr. Zizek led the program from 2009-2013. The program started with alkaline and rechargeable batteries and about 13,000lbs of batteries were recycled during this time. After 2013, the state said alkaline was no longer hazardous to landfills, so that part of the program was stopped.

Scrap metal – Mr. Zizek said the Park District does recycle in-house generated scrap. Metal prices have gone down a lot so the Park District does not receive much revenue from that program anymore.

Mr. Zizek began discussing water conservation at the Park District. There are bottle refill stations to reduce plastic water bottle usage. The Golf Course will soon have recycling bins at each hole. New irrigation systems are used throughout the Park District and moisture sensors are used to limit water use. Mr. Zizek noted Lyman Woods and the 5,700 linear feet of streambank stabilization that was done. Mr. Zizek also listed Doerhoefer Park's permeable pavers.

Mr. Zizek then discussed the Park Districts energy conservation efforts; light sensors were installed in all facilities. The first example given was the roof at Lincoln Center. A white roof test was done on part of the building's roof. The area under the white roof yielded significant temperature readings and Mr. Zizek said the Park District was looking to install a white roof on the entire Lincoln Center building. Mr. Zizek also said the Park District would look into white roofs at other facilities.

Mr. Zizek then discussed the shoe recycling program at the Rec Center. This program has recycled over a ton of shoes through the vendor Use Again. This vendor reuses the shoes in other parts of the world, or recycles them if they are not usable.

Mr. Zizek then touched on the Park Districts Green Purchase program and the requirements used for ordering supplies for the organization. Paper has to be at least 50% recycled material, and there needs to be a green option for cleaning materials. Mr. Zizek then mentioned how the Park District worked with SCARCE in 2009 to achieve their Earth Flag. Mr. Zizek then noted upcoming Arbor Day events and other education opportunities provided to residents through the concert series at the Park.

Mr. Zizek thanked the group for the review of the green business application, and then stated he could answer questions.

Commissioner Getz asked Mr. Zizek if the goats used in the past would be used again and Mr. Zizek said yes. Commissioner Getz also asked about recycling bins at the Rec Center and noticed how they seemed to be contaminated frequently. Mr. Zizek said over time part of the cover on the top of those containers had broken off, so those containers would be replaced. Mr. Zizek said the Park District was also looking into different systems for recycling at the sports parks within the district to help avoid contamination and how public education was a big factor as well.

Commissioner Salman asked how often the green committee met and Mr. Zizek said monthly, said also noted how the committee is revamping their guidelines.

Acting Chair Marron asked if there were questions from the guests, but Ms. Potts just commented on the goats used in the past and asked if they stay overnight unattended and Mr. Zizek said yes, in the past they were used in Belmont Prairie and kept in a closed pen.

Acting Chair Marron asked where the green committee gets their ideas. Mr. Zizek said they get some from the community, and said currently there is a request from a resident on eliminating leaf blowers and Mr. Zizek discussed the challenges with that request. Specifically Mr. Zizek discussed the upkeep of their sports parks with clearing leaves in the fall and how a complete elimination would be difficult, but the Park District could look into ways of reducing their use or reducing hours of use. Mr. Zizek said other ideas for the green committee come from staff, and the committee is made up of all departments from the Park District.

Acting Chair Marron said he had a few questions. Acting Chair Marron asked if they Park District accepts lead and lithium batteries and Mr. Zizek said yes.

Acting Chair Marron also asked if irrigation systems were used on the golf course, and Mr. Zizek said yes, and they use the pond water pumps on the property for irrigation as well. Acting Chair Marron thanked Mr. Zizek for answering his questions and there were no additional questions from the commission or the visitors.

Ms. Miles reminded the commission they could make a motion to recognize the Park District if they would like to do so. **Acting Chair Marron made a motion to approve the Park Districts Green Business application, Commissioner Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.**

Ms. Miles told the commissioners and Mr. Zizek there would be a proclamation for the Park District at an upcoming village council meeting and she would provide Green Business decals to the Park District to display at their facilities. Ms. Miles told Mr. Zizek she would communicate details about the proclamation with him soon.

Commissioner Salman said she appreciated the efforts of the Park District, especially their work with SCARCE. Mr. Zizek said they would like to do more partnerships in the future and said he could come to future meetings or anyone from the Green Committee could attend meetings.

- Discussion on last month's two green business presentations

Ms. Miles said the first business was Laura's Hair and Nail Salon, and the other business was PediaProgress. Acting Chair Marron asked if the commissioners who were not present at the February meeting had a chance to review those applications and Commissioner Salman said she did not. Acting Chair Marron asked if this discussion could be tabled for next month's meeting and the commissioners agreed to table the discussion.

Acting Chair Marron then asked if anyone had any new business to discuss. Commissioner Salman said she and Commissioner Getz would be attending the Sustain DuPage Symposium on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and talked about the schedule for the event, and that she would be presenting a 5 minute presentation on the ECC using the template provided by Sustain DuPage.

Visitor Dr. Gordon Goodman was late and introduced himself and asked if he could make a few comments. Dr. Goodman asked when the hazards of leaf blowers would be discussed and if the ECC has an operational budget.

Ms. Miles said a discussion item for leaf blowers could be placed on a future agenda and she would discuss this with Chairman Pelloso. Ms. Miles also mentioned the Village Manager's office has a sustainability budget, but not necessarily specific to the ECC.

Dr. Goodman said he hoped the leaf blower topic would make its way back to the Village Council at some point. Acting Chair Marron asked if it could be placed on April's agenda and Ms. Miles said she would discuss with Chairman Pelloso.

Commissioner Salman asked if there was an 'ask' made from the leaf blower presentation and Commissioner Getz mentioned the pilot program suggested but no other specifics that she could remember. Commissioner Getz also mentioned an example from the presentation of another community but she was not sure what kind of action the ECC could take. Mr. Zizek then commented regulating outside vendors using leaf blowers is very difficult.

Dr. Goodman said the issue with the leaf blowers is the particulates in the air as well as the noise pollution and said any policy drafting should include both things. His second comment also mentioned seasonal restrictions on leaf blower use. Dr. Goodman mentioned there are other communities that have taken action on this topic and created regulations. Mr. Zizek said in the Park Districts' research they found some northern Chicago suburbs had made some regulations in their communities with exemptions for things like golf courses or park districts and the Park District was going to contact those towns to get some ideas.

Dr. Goodman made another comment regarding Ms. Hart's presentation at the February meeting and said he would be surprised if she had not concluded with a specific ask. Ms. Miles said she understood the "ask" was to look at the pilot program.

Ms. Potts made a comment to suggest googling information on leaf blower dangers for more information. Ms. Potts mentioned several websites and studies done by universities.

Ms. Potts also commented on the Conservation Foundation's visit to a past ECC meeting and a partnership. Ms. Potts asked if that could be communicated to the public. Ms. Miles said the Village works with the Conservation Foundation frequently on things like the rain barrel sale which was coming up in May and how that information would be promoted soon. Ms. Potts mentioned a workshop on urban flooding she had found online that would be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> by the Center for Technology.

Dr. Goodman mentioned the operational budget again and said when he was on the commission in the past their role at that time was to help develop public programs like composting and publicizing that information. Ms. Miles said the commission could use the Village's communication department to assist with publications efforts.

Dr. Goodman also inquired if the Village had a Green Committee and suggested looking into that.

## VI. Adjournment

Acting Chair Marron asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Salman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Getz seconded that motion. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned.