

DOWNERS GROVE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMISSION

Minutes

November 9, 2017

I. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Pellosso, Commissioner Duda, Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Getz

Absent: Commissioner Horvatin, Commissioner Marron, Commissioner Salman

A quorum was established.

II. Visitor Welcome

All visitors were from the Green Grovers Committee of the DG Marchers. The visitors all briefly introduced themselves.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment during this time.

IV. View and Approval of June 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Pellosso asked staff about some of the follow-up items from the previous meeting.

Chairman Pellosso inquired about Republic obtaining their composting permit. Ms. Miles noted Republic had obtained their permit recently.

Chairman Pellosso also asked if Ms. Miles had information on what happens to the end-product of the composting Republic picks up in other communities. Ms. Miles said she had not heard back from the Republic representative, but would follow-up after the meeting and notify the commissioners on that item when she has obtained the information.

Chairman Pellosso also asked if the commissioner whose term expired was replaced with the appointment of Commissioner Horvatin. Ms. Miles confirmed it was.

Commissioner Getz then asked about the motion passed in June and when the Council would see that motion, if it was not until the meeting minutes from that meeting were approved. Ms. Miles noted that going forward to alleviate that gap of time between meetings, draft minutes are going to be posted on the Village website until they are approved by the Commission at the next meeting.

A motion was then made to approve the minutes by Commissioner Getz, the motion

was seconded by Commissioner Ellis. The motion passed with a voice vote.

V. Staff update on ongoing projects

Ms. Miles noted that Republic received their permit for composting and would be meeting with staff soon to discuss the composting program in more detail.

Ms. Miles also noted there was a holiday lights recycling program for the Village beginning after Thanksgiving. Bins will be available at several Village buildings for residents to recycle holiday lights.

VI. New Business

a. Pollinator Campaign

Ms. Sue Farley from the Green Grovers then made a presentation on pollinator gardens. Ms. Miles asked Ms. Farley to send the presentation to her afterwards so it could be distributed to the commissioners.

Ms. Farley would like to use her background in gardening along with another member of the Green Grovers with a similar background to place sample pollinator gardens in the Village.

A sample garden is already planned for the Library. Signage and a map will be provided by the Green Grovers for residents to reference.

Ms. Farley discussed the benefits of native plants in these gardens versus annuals and how the Green Grovers began handing out marketing materials and seeds at the farmer's market this past summer.

Ms. Farley mentioned discussions with the Village Forester about pollinator gardens in Village parkways.

Ms. Farley mentioned the work the Park District has done for helping monarch butterflies with pollinator gardens.

Ms. Farley mentioned surveys done on Facebook and NextDoor by the Green Grovers to get information from residents on their interests in pollinators and said the survey found there was interest in this topic.

Chairman Pelloso noted the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and her interest in that program as well as being interested in this topic of pollinator gardens. Chairman Pelloso would like to work with the Council on this item.

Commissioner Ellis said she knows of many residents who would be willing to donate plants to this cause. Chairman Pelloso mentioned the Belmont Prairie as an option for seeds. Ms. Miles did note that a pollinator garden at Belmont Prairie is planned for 2018 through a grant the Village received.

The Green Grover members discussed how signage would be important on the Belmont Prairie garden. Ms. Miles said she would ask the Public Works Director what signage or maps are planned for the Belmont Prairie pollinator garden.

Commissioner Ellis asked who was in charge of plantings at Village buildings. Ms. Miles said it was the Public Works Department. The commission asked if it was possible to make suggestions on what kinds of plantings could be done. Chairman Pelloso asked about an adopt-a-garden program. Ms. Farley said she thought there used to be a Girl Scout garden near the train station. Ms. Miles said she would inquire about that type of program and the types of plantings.

b. Environmental Workgroup Plan

Commissioner Ellis talked about a plan that the City of Evanston has implemented. The City of Evanston has signed onto many climate plans and Commissioner Ellis was interested in promoting this idea to the council and interested in creating some kind of climate plan for the Village.

Commissioner Ellis suggested looking at the City of Evanston's plan for ideas and asked if the ECC had looked at this idea before. Commissioner Ellis asked if it was possible to create a workgroup in the Village and mentioned in Evanston members were appointed by the mayor and met to work on the action plan.

Commissioner Getz mentioned Warrenville has a similar plan. Commissioner Ellis mentioned a few other communities in the Chicago area that have a similar plan as well.

Commissioner Ellis mentioned she knew the Village had received the green fleet award recently but also was curious what other measures were out there. Commissioner Ellis said she knows of members on the Evanston group that would be willing to assist the Village.

Commissioner Duda asked if we had ever quantified our emissions in anyway and there was discussion about having a starting point before any action plan was begun.

Commissioner Ellis mentioned she had reached out to the Mayor to meet to discuss these items

Ms. Miles noted there is an older presentation on CNG emissions and other data from staff that can be updated.

A question was asked from the Green Grovers about what kind of say they have in renewable energy. Ms. Miles mentioned they have a contact at ComEd but they are a private company.

Commissioner Getz asked if the commission could be updated on the meeting with Republic on composting. Ms. Miles noted she would provide an update when that meeting was conducted.

A member of the Green Grovers asked about water quality; specifically from St. Joseph's Creek in Gilbert Park. Chairman Pelloso said the Illinois EPA would conduct water quality sampling.

There was discussion about how the Green Grovers could assist the ECC and work together.

The commissioners suggested the Green Grovers work to research and propose ideas on different areas to make plantings and work together on other proposals. Ms. Miles did note at the October 17, 2017 Village Council Meeting, the Mayor made a proclamation in support of the DuPage Monarch Project.

c. Sustain DuPage Presence

There was a discussion on the group and if meetings have been attended by Commissioners.

d. The commissioners then discussed agenda items for the next meeting:

- Ms. Miles would present an update on the various discussion points
- The Green Grovers would possibly present a pollinator proposal

Additionally the commissioners inquired if Republic 'washes' recycled items if they are contaminated. Ms. Miles indicated she would ask the Republic representative.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Pelloso asked for motion to adjourn. Commissioner Duda made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned.