

DOWNERS GROVE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMISSION

Minutes

February 9, 2017

I. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Pelloso, Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Getz, Commissioner Marron

Absent: Commissioner Duda, Commissioner McCann, Commissioner Salman

II. Visitor Welcome

There are no visitors.

III. View and Approval of August 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Getz asked to table the approval of the August minutes to the next meeting. Meeting Minutes tabled for the next ECC meeting/

IV. Staff update on ongoing projects

Ms. Miles provided an update on the recycling bins downtown. Data was provided from the Village's waste hauler, Republic Services. The most heavily used bins are located in the following places: near the library, outside of the post office and near the restaurant Caribbean Corner. The most heavily recycled items are: Newspapers and plastic bottles. The most heavily non-recycled items find in the bins are: pet waste and coffee cups. Additionally, Republic stated that a business near Caribbean Corner appeared to be using that bin.

Chairman Pelloso asked if there was a remedy to dissuade residents from misusing the bins and asked if different signage could be placed on the bins to be more visible to residents. The commissioners discussed utilizing the top of the bin for additional signage and Ms. Miles stated she would get information on that item.

Ms. Miles stated she sent out previous minutes to Commissioner Ellis for review. Ms. Miles also sent to all commissioners the section of the Village Code related to the ECC. This part of the code discusses how the commission operates.

After reading the code, Chairman Pelloso discussed how the commission could work with the Stormwater commission and having better engagement with Village Council.

There was a discussion on the rain barrel sales and usage. Ms. Miles said yearly sales are through the Conservation Foundation but but can be picked up at the Public Works open house held each year in the late spring/early summer. Commissioner Getz asked if there was a way to do an upcharge thru the Conservation Foundation for an additional setup fee to show residents how to use the rain barrels. Ms. Miles said she would contact the Conservation Foundation on this topic. There was a discussion on making information more readily available on the usage/setup of rain barrels. Ms. Miles mentioned the recent video made by the Village on rain barrels.

V. New Business

Chairman Pelloso welcomed Commissioner Ellis to the commission and asked for her background. Commissioner Ellis stated she is an attorney for the Joint Commission, and previously worked for the ELPC as an intern. She stated she has always had an interest in environmental issues.

The rest of the commissioners gave brief introductions on their backgrounds as well. Ms. Miles stated the other new commissioner, Commissioner Duda was not available to make the meeting this month.

Planning and goals for 2017

Ms. Miles said this section was not structured but more of an informal discussion. Chairman Pelloso stated she would like to have a better relationship with council in 2017.

Commissioner Getz mentioned she has invited Village Council Commissioner Hose to attend a meeting. Commissioner Hose and commissioner Getz had coffee as well where they discussed what the ECC could do. Commissioner Hose suggested the commission to make a motion to get the council's attention and/or contact council directly stating a motion has been made on a topic.

Commissioner Getz has also been attending Sustain DuPage meetings and suggested staying in contact with the group. Commissioner Marron discussed engaging the community more. Commissioner Ellis stated she has had discussions with residents on environmental issues already. Chairman Pelloso asked about a group email for the residents to use; an email suggestion box. Ms. Miles said she would inquire about this topic.

Ms. Miles did note the weekly e-newsletter that has various issues related to the ECC and other environmental issues but a resident needs to sign up for that newsletter. The group discussed some kind of newsletter to residents as well.

Chairman Pelloso asked which member had not asked for reappointment and Ms. Miles stated that was Commissioner Riley who did not request reappointment.

Commissioner Ellis asked if Downers Grove was a "Green Town". The commissioners

said they weren't aware of what that was and Commissioner Ellis said she would find more information. Ms. Miles said we have been recognized for a green fleet for several years.

Commissioner Getz asked about negotiating for recycling with events put on in the Village and reaching out to council on this idea. The commission discussed various events in the Village and asked who the point person was on negotiating the downtown recycling. Ms. Miles stated Deputy Village Manager Michael Baker negotiates the solid waste contracts.

Commissioner Marron asked about electric vehicle charging stations in the Village in downtown. Commissioner Marron said he would look into his contacts in Frankfort on how they acquired their charging station. Ms. Miles said she would inquire about this as well.

VI. Adjournment

Chairman Pelloso asked for motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Ellis made motion, seconded by Commissioner Marron. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned.