

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

**Minutes**

**April 11, 2019**

I. Roll Call

Chairwoman Pelloso, Commissioner Bement, Commissioner Duda,  
Commissioner Ellis arrived at 7:03pm

Commissioner Maron – Absent  
Commissioner Salman – Absent

II. Visitor Welcome

Chairwoman Pelloso welcomed the visitors to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

Daniel Carlsen, Management Analyst of the Village stated that he is serving as the role of staff liaison for the Environment Concerns Commission because Megan Miles fell ill.

III. Public Comment

Dr. Jan Hessler, mentioned he has lived in Village for over 40 years, and has done numerous professional talks regarding climate change. Dr. Hessler addressed the magnitude of climate change impact and asked what sort of sustainability efforts the Village had established, and how do those efforts compare to other communities. Dr. Hessler understands that the Village receives free electricity for Village facilities from an agreement with ComEd and wants to ensure the Village is still operating sustainably.

Chairwoman Pelloso asked Mr. Carlsen if it was possible to gather this information and have it available for the next Environmental Concerns Commission.

Mr. Carlsen stated that he would gather the available information on the Village sustainability efforts, and clarified that while the Village does receive electricity at no cost for non-revenue generating facilities, the Village is committed to sustainable practices and have demonstrated that by activities such as installing solar panels on the Public Works and Fleet facilities, and the Villages effort to convert their vehicle fleet to alternative fuels.

Chairwoman Pelloso asked Mr. Carlsen what the current composition of the Village's fleet by fuel-type is, and what the process is for replacing vehicles.

Mr. Carlsen stated that the fleet is roughly 83% alternative fuel vehicles, and when a

vehicle comes close to reaching its life expectancy, part of the review process is to see if an alternative fuel vehicle replacement can provide the same service.

Chairwoman Pelloso asked if there is any push to purchase electric vehicles. If the Village purchased electric vehicles and installed an electrical charging station, both the Village and residents would benefit.

Mr. Carlsen stated that staff is always looking for sustainable solutions, and will see if there are any plans for electric vehicles in the future.

Sue Farley, mentioned that the Downers Grove Public Library will be hosting their inaugural Service Fair. The event is on Saturday, April 13, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and showcases the community services provided by various entities within the Village of Downers Grove and surrounding areas. She encouraged the Village of Downers Grove should be involved in the service fair and to look for ways to promote the service fair when the service fair is held in the future. Ms. Farley also encouraged the Village to take steps in becoming a Sol-Smart community, a national designation program recognizing organizations that foster the development of solar industry.

Ms. Farley also asked for a status of the Village's composting program now that it has been in operations for almost a year. She wondered why residents had to use a Republic Services yard waste container instead of any household container.

Chairwoman Pelloso asked Mr. Carlsen if it were possible to get any updates on the compost program and if another container could be used for composting instead of the Republic Services yard waste container.

Mr. Carlsen stated he would work on getting this information from Republic Services for the next meeting to share with the group.

A resident, stated that addressing climate change is a major passion in her life, and expressed frustration that the problem is not being adequately addressed. She stated that other countries with less available resources are investing in sustainable practices to help the environment, and we should look to those countries as an example. The resident was wondering how she could be more involved in supporting sustainability locally, and what would be the best way to communicate directly with local leaders.

Chairwoman Pelloso explained to the resident that there is currently a vacant position on the Environmental Concerns Commission, and encouraged her to submit an application if she is interested in supporting sustainability and climate change.

Mr. Carlsen also stated that Village Council meetings are a great way to speak with Village Council members directly, or she would be welcome to send them an email as well.

David Rose, asked why there was a need to create an Ad Hoc committee to address climate change when there is an already established Environmental Concerns Commission.

Chairwoman Pelloso explained that the duties of the Environmental Concerns Commission are much broader than just focusing on climate change, and while every

member of the Environmental Concerns Commission has a professional background in environmental science, not everyone is an expert on climate change. The Ad Hoc subcommittee for climate change would allow the group to solely focus on addressing climate change, and applicants with a professional background related to the field of climate change will be targeted as members of the subcommittee.

Commissioner Ellis also explained that the Environmental Concerns Commission is an advice and counsel board, which means the commission identifies issues for the Council to consider, and does not make recommendations like petition-driven boards. If the Ad Hoc Committee were created the group would be allowed to make recommendations to Village Council, which is why the Environmental Concerns Commission is encouraging the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee.

IV. View and Approval of March 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Chairwoman Pelloso asked for a motion to approve.

**Commissioner Duda made a motion to approve, Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The motion to approve the March 14, 2019 meeting minutes was passed unanimously.**

V. Staff update on Ongoing Projects

Mr. Carlsen stated that the Village will be participating in the annual DuPage River Sweep sponsored by the Conservation Foundation of Naperville. Volunteers throughout the county head into the local waterways to clean up garbage and other debris that has entered into the water system. Mr. Carlsen encouraged anybody interested in participating to go to [www.ConservationFoundation.org](http://www.ConservationFoundation.org) for more information.

Chairwoman Pelloso suggested that this event would be great to advertise in the Village's weekly newsletters, and encouraged the Village to utilize the weekly newsletters to promote events like these more often in the future.

VI. New Business

*Discussion: Renaming the Commission and Reviewing the Goals of the Commission*

Commissioner Bement suggested that the name of the Environmental Concerns Commission should be changed to just Environmental Commission, as was discussed at the previous meeting.

Chairwoman Pelloso asked the other Commissioners what the absentee members felt about the name change at the previous meeting.

Commissioner Ellis noted that they were in support of the change, but wanted the Chairman's input before issuing a motion.

**Commissioner Duda made a motion to change the name of the Environmental Concerns Commission to the Environmental Commission, Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The motion to change the name of the Environmental Concerns Commission to the Environmental Commission was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Chairwoman Pelloso stated that the commission would still need time to review the powers and duties of the Environmental Concerns Commission outlined in the Village's municipal code before any changes could be discussed.

Commissioner Ellis asked Mr. Carlsen if it were possible to receive the Village Code language in a digital form so that individuals can make edits, and the group would be able to track any changes that were made. The group would then review and discuss any potential changes at the next Environmental Concerns Commission.

*Discussion: Creation of Ad Hoc Workgroup*

Chairwoman Pelloso introduced the next item on new business which was the Creation of an Ad Hoc Workgroup.

Commissioner Ellis provided an update to the group, summarizing the workgroup proposal which states the subcommittee's purpose, current state, suggested goals and resources. Commissioner Ellis then identified a couple of issues that would need to be decided on before the proposal is submitted.

Commissioner Ellis asked what the ideal number of members would be.

Commissioner Bement responded that seven would be ideal.

Commissioner Ellis asked if there should be a member of the Environmental Concerns Commission on the Climate Action Work Group.

Chairwoman Pelloso responded that there should be one member of the Environmental Concerns Commission on the subcommittee. Additionally, Chairwoman Pelloso stated there should be two co-chairs so that the meetings would still be effectively lead if one of the co-chairs is missing.

Chairwoman Pelloso asked Mr. Carlsen how members of the subcommittee would be elected. Mr. Carlsen stated that the Mayor appoints members to Boards and Commissions, subject to Council consideration and it would be the same for the subcommittee.

Commissioner Ellis asked when the subcommittee should meet.

Chairwoman Pelloso stated that it should be once per month for an hour, preferably before or after the Environmental Concerns Commission to help with scheduling.

Commissioner Ellis stated that she will add to the report that the Climate Action Work

Group should have two co-chairs, be comprised of seven members, and that one of the seven members should be on the Environmental Concerns Commission.

**Commissioner Ellis made a motion to submit the proposal with the addition that the Climate Action Work Group should have two co-chairs, be comprised of seven members, and that one of the seven members should be on the Environmental Concerns Commission to Village Council. Commissioner Duda seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote**

Chairwoman Pelloso reviewed the items for next month's agenda. She said she would like each Commissioner to review the goals of the commission outlined in the Village code and come to the next meeting with suggestions on any changes.

## VII. Adjournment

Chairwoman Pelloso asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Duda seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Meeting adjourned.