

DOWNERS GROVE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMISSION

Minutes

August 11, 2016

I. Roll Call

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

Absent: Commissioner McCann, Commissioner Riley

II. Visitor Welcome

There are no visitors.

III. View and Approval of March 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Pelloso asked for a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Salman made a motion, it was seconded by Commissioner Marron. The motion passed with a voice vote.

The minutes from March 10, 2016 were approved.

IV. Staff update on ongoing projects

Chairman Pelloso asked for any staff updates. Ms. Miles noted the recommendation made by the Commission for the Village's prescription drug program was noted in the approved minutes that council received.

Ms. Miles noted Walgreens was instituting a new nation-wide program for prescription drug disposal in their stores, one of them in Downers Grove at 1000 Ogden Avenue. Bins would be placed inside the stores for patrons to dispose of their prescription drugs.

Ms. Miles also noted the contract for electronics recycling was approved at the last Village Council meeting. The contract went to Council for approval because of the high cost this year for the event. Ms. Miles said the event would be held at the Belmont Metra Station, Lot H from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The location was moved from Public Works due to construction at the Public Works facility. Additionally, Ms. Miles said DuPage County was looking into long term electronics recycling options. Commissioner Marron asked if the Village recycling event was open to all and Ms. Miles said yes. The group then discussed how applying a resident's only restriction may be beneficial to reducing costs in the future.

Ms. Miles then noted one commissioner did not elect to be reappointed for a new term – Commissioner Riley. The Mayor would be reviewing applicants to fill that vacancy and other vacancies on the Village’s various boards and commissions.

V. New Business

Chairman Pelloso mentioned in February the commission discussed two green business applications: Laura’s hair and nails and PediaProgress and that decisions were tabled on each of these because of various absences at meetings.

Chairman Pelloso asked if everyone had a chance to look at the applications and mentioned how PediaProgress discussed several things they were working on for the future.

Chairman Pelloso said she would want to circle back to PediaProgress to see if progress had been made on any of those outstanding or future planned items. Commissioner Marron agreed with Chairman Pelloso’s recommendation. Chairman Pelloso would also like to ask PediaProgress about recycling.

Commissioner Marron said she would be in favor of making a decision on PediaProgress’s application within one meeting of their response to the questions. Commissioner Salman said she still wanted to make this part of the overall Green Business program process, to add this piece as an additional step, and also have the commissioners make recommendations to the applicant.

Commissioner Marron said he was happy with the presentation from Laura’s Hair and Nails and would like to vote on that application.

Commissioner Marron made a motion to approve Laura’s Hair and Nails Green Business application, Chairman Pelloso seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Ms. Miles said she notified the Park District when they were approved and that she also dropped off the Green Business decals for the Park District to display and she would do the same for Laura’s Hair and Nails. Ms. Miles said she would also invite the business to the meeting if they would like to attend when the proclamation was made for the green business recognition.

Ms. Miles said she would notify PediaProgress of the questions discussed tonight.

The group then discussed when new commissioners were appointed to the commission how reviewing the Green Business Application would be beneficial. Chairman Pelloso then asked Ms. Miles about commissioners who have multiple vacancies at meetings and Ms. Miles said she has mentioned the frequent vacancy to other staff. Chairman Pelloso then reiterated her concerns with commission members missing multiple

meetings.

Chairman Pelloso asked if Ms. Miles could find out any information on the recycling containers that were put in the downtown in the spring. Ms. Miles said she would see what information she could find.

Commissioner Getz discussed how she and Commissioner Salman attended the DCECC Coalition meeting. Commissioner Getz found it to be very informative and noted the successful organizations at the meeting said they generally had members of their Village Council attend their commission meetings and generally had more involvement from someone on their Village Council or board.

Commissioner Getz then asked how commissioners can contact the council. Ms. Miles said commissioners can contact the mayor and council at any point through their individual emails or the joint mayor and council email.

The group then discussed how they can provide more value as a commission to the community. Suggestions were to have better two-way communication with the residents, possibly through the website, or some kind of social media presence. Chairman Pelloso said when residents came to them with a concern, they need a specific ask. Ms. Miles said a motion can be made in the meeting from the group for a recommendation to council. Chairman Pelloso would like more clarification on how recommendations go to council. Ms. Miles said she would look for information on the motion process to send to the commission. Ms. Miles said the recommendation the commission made regarding the prescription drug program was noted in the minutes of the meeting and those minutes would go to council where they are placed on an agenda. Ms. Miles said she would confirm that in fact that set of minutes went to council.

Commissioner Getz mentioned the next upcoming Sustain DuPage meeting and Commissioner Salman said she would plan to attend. Ms. Miles said she would forward the meeting information to the group. Chairman Pelloso asked for agenda items for next month, and Commissioner Getz mentioned brainstorming for recycling at community events.

VI. Adjournment

Chairman Pelloso asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Getz made a motion and Commissioner Salman seconded. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned.