

DOWNERS GROVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMISSION
June 16, 2005
Village Hall, Ante Room
7:00 PM

Chairman Gilbert called the morning to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

I. Roll call

Present: Chairman Mike Gilbert; Members: Laura Feste, Brian Freeman, Jeffrey Lifka, Robert Pawlak, Joseph Sterner

Absent: Dr. Gordon Goodman

Staff: Marketing/Media Dir. Doug Kozlowski

II. Minutes of May 12, 2005

A change was noted under Roman Numeral III, where the name “Edith Marka” should be revised to “Edith Makra”. **Minutes of May 12, 2005 were approved, with noted change, on motion by Mr. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Lifka. Motion carried by voice vote of 6-0.**

Chairman Gilbert thanked the commissioners for moving this meeting date and asked them to contact him or Mr. Kozlowski if they ever needed the same accommodation. He provided copies of the upcoming agendas, mentioning that Dr. Goodman has suggested that the topic of coal-fired power plant be moved to the fall, possibly in September. He discussed that this commission will have to make some sort of proactive recommendation to the Village Council on this matter. He asked the commissioners whether they had specific issues they wanted to be addressed in the upcoming agendas.

Chairman Gilbert spoke about his conversation with the mayor regarding the Environmental Concerns Commission and conveyed the mayor’s gratitude for the commission. The mayor’s only issue was that he was not a proponent of the campfire ordinance or changing it and asked that this commission discuss the topic very thoroughly before forwarding it to the Village Council and to make the public aware that this commission will discuss the campfire ordinance. To date, there is no direction from the council that indicates whether they are going to or have to act upon the ordinance. Chairman Gilbert added that a number of groups wanted to discuss the topic. On another matter, the chairman indicated to the mayor that this commission will be speaking about stormwater issues some time in the future.

Mr. Kozlowski interjected and stated that he was aware that the village would be adding a full-time staff person in the Stormwater Division and in the Enforcement Division. Mr. Kozlowski agreed staff was needed in those areas. The chairman recommended that this commission speak on some of the issues that need to be discussed as they relates to the budget and that **it be added to the October agenda.** Mr. Kozlowski said he was sending out the next citizen survey and it should be tabulated prior to the budget cycle process. Chairman Gilbert believed it would be beneficial for the commissioners to spend time looking at the budget and looking at those areas that were not being focused on with regard to environmental concerns and setting some money aside. Should the discussion need to take place sooner, the chair asked that the commissioners or staff notify him.

A short dialog followed on the questions asked in the citizen survey. Mr. Kozlowski offered to send a draft to the commissioners. Mr. Pawlak stated that the survey he responded to was too long and redundant.

III. Further Discussion on Recycling and Composting Educational Programs

Dialog followed on the status of the recycling bins from Baird and Warner, which Mr. Kozlowski explained that he had not heard anything on the matter. The chairman suggested that Mr. Kozlowski contact Baird and Warner to see if they were still paying for the bins or if they were interested in a shared cost with the Village. Ms. Feste reminded members that the recycling flyer was going to be revised to a one-page flyer in order to place it in each new bin. Members proceeded to discuss the costs involved in printing the flyer and possibly receiving a donation from the waste hauler. Chairman Gilbert discussed the idea of not only giving out the flyer with the recycling bins but also mailing the flyers out once or twice a year to the residents. He suggested getting the costs for printing them, distributing them, and mailing them. The discussion then moved on to where it was noted that the recycling flyer was a regular insert to the Newcomers welcome packet and whether that was the best place to be spending the money, or, whether the money should be spent on education at the elementary level.

Chairman Gilbert conveyed his conversation with Ms. Patti Paige, with the DuPage County Community Recycling Education Group, who was interested in partnering with this commission to get the recycling education out to the kids. He believed the money may be better spent at the school level where kids are already recycling. Another suggestion was to place a full page advertisement in the *Reporter* or have a representative visit the schools to speak to the students about recycling, similar to how the police and fire departments speak to the students. While costs would have to be explored, Ms. Feste stated that Ms. Kay McKean (phonetic spelling) could speak to the students, but the funding for her visits was recently cut. The chair man asked Ms. Feste to contact Ms. McKean as to her rates for visiting the schools and to invite to her one of the Environmental Concerns meetings.

Members began to discuss their ideas of where the budget money should be placed and to contact the Community Grants agency to assist this commission. Mr. Kozlowski proceeded to speak about the difficulty Trader Joe's and other downtown businesses were experiencing in trying to recycle their own waste, which many could not do. He stated it was another avenue to explore. Other suggestions included inserting the new, revised flyer into the recycle bins, contacting BFI to see if they would share their list of new customers, and to contact the Chamber of Commerce as to how they get their names. Should the cost of printing the new flyers become cost-prohibitive, Ms. Feste suggested printing up smaller cards and indicating on the cards that the customer can visit the village's web site. Another idea was to send a message on the water bill.

The conversation moved to discussion of the Village's TV station. Mr. Kozlowski proceeded to explain his idea about running a one-half hour recycling segment under the At Your Service program discussing the recycling program, viewing items that are recyclable, letting the public know where it can obtain the bins, and demonstrating a compost pile. The filming schedule was discussed with August 22nd being the week to begin filming. Ms. Feste conveyed that **Steve Volgran** had volunteered to be in the segment. Ms. Feste also volunteered to write a script and be in the segment. Members spoke about the getting the correct steps for composting and adhering to the Village's ordinance as to the proper location of a composite site. **Mr. Kozlowski would also contact Edith at the Morton Arboretum.** Suggestions followed that the Village should post a message asking for

volunteers who compost or getting endorsements. Copies of the taped segment could be made available at the library.

Chairman Gilbert discussed his conversation with Jack Bajor (phonetic spelling), the former Public Works director, who will be holding a joint meeting with a number of Environmental Concerns commissions. Chairman Gilbert stated he plans on speaking with Mr. Bajor in more detail about some of the upcoming topics and will keep this commissioners informed.

IV. Continued Discussion on Village Demolition and Construction Ordinance

Mr. Freeman presented a draft ordinance that he and Mr. Sterner worked on which was similar to Glen Ellyn's document. Mr. Freeman conveyed that Glen Ellyn's commission recommends that this commission consider certain aspects of demolition such as asbestos, mold, the physical characteristics of fibers, enforcement, and education about teardowns/demolitions, etc. The chairman recommended that when the document is presented to the Downers Grove Village Council that it include a fifth bullet point which references the importance of environmental issues and its funding. Funding sources were discussed, noting permits fees could be raised. Chairman Gilbert conveyed positive comments about the draft ordinance. He also recommended that Mr. Freeman add the recommended bullet point and address funding from both the permit side and from the violation side, readdress the letter to him, and he would forward it to the mayor and Village Council from the Environmental Concerns Commission.

Members raised discussion that it was important to use a certified/licensed asbestos inspector to perform surveys of a building, who basically signs off on the project just like any other licensed contractor for the Village. The liability is then taken off of the Village. Chairman Gilbert summarized the steps he would take when presenting the ordinance to the Village Council and follow it up a couple of months later to be sure some form of action was taking place. Chairman Gilbert commended Messrs. Freeman and Sterner for their work on the document.

On another note, the chairman asked members whether they were receiving the appropriate minutes from other teardown meetings, many of whom were not. Mr. Kozlowski indicated he had all of the minutes from the Village-sponsored meetings, but that the Grove Watch meeting was taped and another Grove meeting was scheduled this week. Another village meeting was scheduled for June 29th but it was to focus on zoning setbacks, heights, etc. and not demolition/teardown issues, per se. Chairman Gilbert believed it was important for members to be receiving the information since all of the meetings were interconnected and asked Mr. Kozlowski to have one of the secretaries from the other meetings to send a copy of the minutes to him to keep this commission informed.

V. New Business

Discussion followed as to the number of brown fields located in town and whether the Village was participating in the money from the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to remediate some of the sites within the Village for the purpose of redevelopment. Mr. Sterner suggested keeping the matter upfront so that the commission could consider how it could get the Village to promote clean up and/or redevelopment. Mr. Freeman indicated that the EPA does have brown field redevelopment grants and commented on his attendance at one of those meetings. The chairman asked that Mr. Freeman contact him on when the next meeting was in order to attend it. Conversation also followed on the fact that a municipality would have to have a corrective action plan as to implementation of a redevelopment project on a brown field site. It was noted that the Village's grant writer may already have information on this topic.

Members discussed that the Village will have to look at its brown field sites for the long-term and decide what it wants to do with them, but many hurdles existed. Once a community planner was hired and the Economic Development Committee became its own separate entity, Chairman Gilbert envisioned more focus would occur on the brown field sites. He also believed the government had to be watching the sites, but at what level, he was not sure.

As a follow up to Ms. Feste's question regarding the recognition of Trader Joe's with the cross-promotion of the Village's Environmental Concerns Commission, Mr. Kozlowski stated the manager at Trader Joe's was very enthusiastic about participating in the recycling promotion again. For every person who brought in their own bag, they would be entered into a raffle at the store. The prior event was well received. Mr. Kozlowski stated he would contact the manager again. The chairman suggested getting an award for Trader Joe's.

Due to some members being on vacation, the commission agreed not to hold a July meeting. The chairman would get some dates for August.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. on motion by Mr. Freeman, seconded by Chairman Gilbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
(as transcribed by tape)

/s/ Celeste K. Weilandt
Celeste K. Weilandt, Recording Secretary