

Village of Villa Park  
Environmental Concerns Commission

Minutes

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Call Meeting to Order at 7:23 pm

Roll Call: Commissioners: Michael Spencer, Jes Spivak, Sandy Hill, Paul Mast Hewitt, Ann Marie Testa

Board Liaison: Trustee Bob Wagner

Guest: Andrew Van Gorp

Approval of Agenda: Sandy moved and Jes seconded. The agenda was approved.

Introduction of Visitor: Andrew Van Gorp is the founder of Sustain DuPage that started in 2014 which helps people and organizations reach their sustainability goals. They are sponsoring a symposium on March 12 at the REV3 Innovation Center in Naperville. They are inviting the Commission to present a 5 minute presentation. They will be airing the symposium and will have viewing sites at the Conservation Foundation in Naperville and College of DuPage or through YouTube. He also asked commissioners to complete a survey, the results of which will be presented at the symposium. He is also proposing that there be a consortium of environmental commissions that would meet twice annually.

Chairman's report: Good to see everyone after the holidays. It is also good to see the beautification project around the metra station.

Board Liaison report: The cooking oil collection was ok, we had about 12 people come by and the oil was picked up by Biofuels. He went to a Salt Creek Sanitation event and asked if they would be interested in having a receptacle to collect cooking oil. They are going to have a trial of it. Chicago Biofuels will deliver a receptacle and will collect any oil that is dropped off. Mr. Wagner also handed out information about the DuPage Monarch Project. There is a model resolution included and he is asking the commission to consider this. He also received information about a plan for energy conservation and Air Quality Improvement. It is part of the cool cities initiative. The Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus also provides technical support for sustainability. The village's electrical contract is going out to bid. Regarding the "green team" that the village once had, he learned that Steve Stapleton, Deputy Fire Chief, is now in leading that effort.

Approval of Minutes, since there was no quorum at the November meeting, the October minutes still need to be approved. Paul will send out the October minutes for approval at our next meeting.

Old Business:

- a) Environmental Award: Sandy did some research and found a couple of cities that have "green recognition" programs. These both had formal nomination forms and criteria that can be

reviewed and adapted for our needs. We had discussed using the Village Matters deadline as our deadline for writing up our first nomination. Sandy will draft something using these two models and will send it out for the commission to discuss and approve at our next meeting.

#### New Business

- a) Michael spoke with Jeff Gahrts about the work of Glen Ellyn Sustainability. They spoke about Cool DuPage. They also spoke about smart meters. They spoke about the possibility of having a municipal building in Villa Park being a net zero electrical user. Sandy spoke about the library's building plans and how the question always comes back to the expense.
- b) Ann Marie spoke about the 2016 DuPage Environmental Summit by the DuPage Conservation Foundation at the NIU campus. The theme was "Making Conservation Meaningful Where You Live." The Naperville green team is doing a lot of innovative things. Ann Marie will send out a link to their website. One story was about Hammerschmidt School in Lombard which had a problem with a muddy area. They raised money and revamped the landscaping including a rain garden. Another was by Butterfield Park District who talked about opposing a proposal to put in a large gas station on Butterfield and 53. They were able to obtain the property with the help of the Conservation Foundation. Another presentation was about encouraging pollinators, including butterflies. Mr. Wagner also talked about one city's participation in stream sweep and how organized they were. Ann Marie pointed out that this was organized by someone on staff and how much can be done when there is an advocate on staff. One key take away was that they encouraged people to not plan all events for Earth Day.
- c) Cool DuPage Initiative information was handed out by Mr. Wagner. Michael encouraged the commissioners to read through the materials before the next meeting so that they can be voted on at our next meeting. Mr. Wagner encouraged the commission to move quickly on this so that he can bring it to the Village Board. At this point, there are very few municipalities. It was decided to review the proposed Cool DuPage resolution
  - a. Ann Marie Moved and Sandy seconded that the Environmental Concerns Commission endorse the Cool DuPage Municipal Partner Resolution as presented with the correction in the fourth paragraph the word "towards" should read "toward." The motion passed unanimously.
- d) DuPage Monarch Butterflies Project information was handed out by Mr. Wagner. Michael encouraged the commissioners to read through the materials before the next meeting so that they can be voted on at our next meeting. There was some discussion on what this kind of proposal would entail. Bob mentioned that the review of the ordinances is on hold as the consultant is not getting paid. We discussed the milkweed ordinance and whether that could be changed without changing all the ordinances. Discussed how important the site selection is. Either a park district property, a school property, or the prairie path. The prairie path would require county approval. The location would need to meet a number of criteria to qualify. Those criteria are listed in the material that was handed out. Michael will work on

putting a proposal together and will send it out for review and comments before the next meeting and will plan to vote on it in February.

Around the Table

Paul: Pass

Sandy: Pass

Trustee Wagner: Pass

Ann Marie:

1. I would like to make a motion that we purchase a tree for an Arbor Day tree planting event. Sandy seconded and the motion passed.
2. She was speaking with the honey vendor from the French Market who told her that he was considering not returning to the Villa Park French Market. She is concerned that fewer and fewer vendors could mean fewer customers. This last year was the first time that he made less money than the previous year. There was some discussion about whether another location might be better and there was some consensus that no other location would have better traffic.

Jes: The Earth Festival that she attends every year is having an art competition for art using recycled materials. Deadline is February 29 for entering. Exhibition is April 16<sup>th</sup>. More info at [itmeanstheworld.org](http://itmeanstheworld.org)  
Jes is using succulents as her centerpieces for her wedding as one of the green initiatives to be included in her wedding.

Michael: pass

Sandy moves and Ann Marie Seconded that the meeting adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.