

**Village of Villa Park**  
Environmental Concerns Commission

MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday,  
March 24, 2016

1. Call Meeting to Order – **Chairperson Jes Spivak called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM**
2. Roll Call & Establish Quorum: Commissioners: Sandy Hill, Jes Spivak, Paul Mast Hewitt, Ann Marie Testa  
Board Liaison: Trustee Bob Wagner  
Visitor: VP Resident, Vicky Fitzmaurice
3. Approval of the Agenda: Sandy moved and Ann Marie seconded that the agenda be approved. Paul mentioned that there had been discussion about visiting Clarke Environmental and so that was added to the agenda as new business. The agenda as amended was passed.
4. Introduction of Visitors—none scheduled
5. Chairman’s Report  
Chairperson Jes went to an environmental festival in Indiana and obtained some informational booklets from the organizers. More info can be found at [www.nirpc.org](http://www.nirpc.org) (Sandy will look up the website and send the links to the documents via e-mail). She received the award plaque for the green champion award, but will not be able to attend the board meeting when it is presented on May 9.
6. Board Liaison Report
  - The Villa Park Argus reported on Roy Strom’s presentation to the board. Trustee Wagner shared the powerpoint presentation. The demand for recycled materials has diminished and so the cost for recycling has increased. There is a clause in the contract that would allow the Village to either send the recyclables to the landfills or to add a surcharge on the residents’ bills to cover the additional costs. The board was in agreement to pass the cost on to the residents.
  - This is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the stream sweep, which was recognized at a village board meeting. Bob will be at the stream sweep. (Sandy noted that the high school district does a stream sweep the week before the county, probably due to graduation). Staging will be at Cricket Creek Forest preserve.
  - Clark Environmental (mosquito abatement) has invited the commission to meet at their location. Bob has been concerned with the Zika Virus and its possible spread. Bob has concerns about the open meeting implications of meeting outside of Villa Park. Bob will ask Erin to ask the Villa Attorney what they think about the commission having a “field trip” to the Clark Environmental.
  - Greg Gola approached Bob about having the ECC give some guidance on the use of pesticides and herbicides around the Village properties. Bob would suggest that this year is already in process, but if the ECC could come up with a proposal by the fall for the next year. It would be good to start with Greg to find out about what the Village currently does, what they use, how often, and where.
  - The Village has passed the budget and the Commission has the same \$3000. After spending the \$1500 on the trees, the commission still has about \$900.
7. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 24, 2016: Sandy moved and Ann Marie seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

## 8. Old Business

### a. Green Champion Award

Ann Marie suggests that we use most of the text that was presented in the Village Matters and add some quotes from Bill Karges for a press release. Ann Marie will draft it and send it out to the ECC and Jes will submit it to the respective press contacts.

Ann Marie will check to see how many words he can submit for a brief article in the Village newsletter. The deadline for submitting for the next newsletter is in July. Bill will submit it prior to our June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The owners of Pioneer offered to leave recruitment information on their counter.

### b. DuPage Monarch Butterflies Project

Jes spoke with former Chairman Michael Spencer and found out that he did not rewrite the proposal. Sandy will review the proposals that were distributed at earlier meetings and put together a draft to be reviewed by the commission.

### c. Summerfest Planning

Jes will contact the organizers to ensure the ECC has a booth.

Ann Marie moved that the ECC spend up to \$80 to purchase a couple of outdoor compost bins. Sandy seconded. Paul suggested that the ECC get a larger compost bin than we had last year to provide a better visual draw at Summerfest. Ann Marie revised her motion to spend up to \$200 to purchase an outdoor compost bin and the motion passed.

### d. ComEd Tree Planting

There were people from ComEd, Village Staff, and the county. Sandy, Bob and Paul all attended. There are photos posted to the Village Facebook page.

### e. Cortesi Park Memorial Day Event

The trees that the commission donated to the village will be planted before Memorial Day Event on the east side of the Depot. This is also the event that Greg Gola had asked for ideas on what alternatives there might be for the annual balloon release. The ECC had sent the possibility of using bubbles instead of balloons as balloons are a nuisance for public works and an environmental hazard.

### f. Annual River Sweep: 9 a.m. to noon, May 21

The staging will begin at Cricket Creek Forest Preserve. Paul had sent information via e-mail about an article he had read that suggested using burlap bags rather than plastic for clean-up days. It was suggested that paper landscaping bags be used. The Pride Commission is sponsoring a prairie path cleanup day this Saturday. It was suggested that those ECC commissioners who attend bring paper landscaping bags and encourage others to fill their bags to capacity. For next year, the ECC can recommend to the Pride Commission to use paper landscaping bags rather than plastic.

### g. New member recruitment

We have a half-sheet card that includes an application on one side and information on the commission on the other side. Jes will drop some off at Pioneer and other locations to be displayed.

## 9. Public comment

Vicky Fitzmaurice said she has been considering applying to join the commission. (Jes will e-mail her the

10. New Business

- a. Mosquito abatement: Trustee Wagner will look into the Open Meeting implications and whether it will be possible to visit Clarke's facilities.

11. Around the Table

Sandy: The library will host a presentation on Solar Energy on May 9 from 7-8. Register online, by phone or in person.

Ann Marie: A lot of people think that the cost of oil has driven up the cost of recycling, but there are other reasons as well. The Roy Strom website does not reflect the same information that was posted on the large bins that were distributed to the Friday section. The website has 5-year-old information. It seems reasonable to expect Roy Strom to keep their website up-to-date. The other issue that is new is the suggestion that contaminated recyclables has been a problem. How can we educate the residents on what can and cannot be recycled?

Bob: there is a drug collection at the Police Station this Saturday, no questions asked.

Paul: Can we do some education on recyclables at our Summerfest event with some display (with a recycling bin filled with things that are and are not recyclable. Can we invite a representative from Roy Strom to our next meeting? (Bob will invite someone)

12. Adjournment Sandy moved and Paul seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Everyone was in favor and the meeting ended at 9 p.m.

**Planning for Future Meetings**  
**Next Regular Meeting –May 26, 2016**