



Village of Antioch - Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2011,

1. Call to Order: The Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Babicz at 6:32 pm in the Board Room at Antioch Village Hall: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

Present : Chairman Babicz, Members Peter Grant, Melonnie Hartl, Glenn Semple, Casey Furlong, Brent Bluthardt, , Cynthia Stepanek, Meredith Schnelle arrived at 6:35. Guests present: Village Trustee Scott Pierce

2. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting from August, 22, 2011 by Peter, 2nd by Cynthia. Voice vote – all aye.

3. Committee Reports

- a. ***Alternative Energy***

~Peter reported on natural gas as a source of fuel for vehicles. Hendricks Industrial Gas Company in Wauconda does vehicle conversions to natural gas. Peter will check further into the cost. Scott stated that the village looked into this last year with a company in Gurnee but they never did get together. He said the village would welcome more information about this alternate source of fuel. Scott thought that a company could possibly come in to evaluate the village fleet. Casey stated that Wheeling has already put in a fueling station for their vehicles. Scott will ask Candi to provide us with a breakdown of the vehicles, many of which use diesel.

~Mike mentioned that Gurnee Mills has put in two charging stations for electric cars. Scott stated that Costco has removed the ones they had put in for lack of use. Glenn stated that Baxter encourages use of alternative energy/hybrid vehicles by offering special parking spaces for them. Meredith stated that the forest preserve also does this already. Perhaps the village could consider having posted special parking areas to increase awareness and encourage energy saving vehicles.

~Peter – mentioned a bicycle exchange program in Chicago. Perhaps this could be possible at the train station. If someone came on the train and wanted to go into town, they could use a bike.

~SEDAC update – Glenn checked and found that multiple buildings could be done, but they would like to limit it to two. Glenn has asked Dustin to get a list of buildings that may be energy hogs that could be part of this study – besides the treatment plant. Lights could be looked at with this study, but must be put into the project application. The Village of Grayslake is already using another company besides ComEd. Scott said that our village is already checking into this.

~A wind energy policy needs to be determined. Discussions had occurred, but further information can be a project for this committee

b. **Conservation**

SWALCO update – types of containers for recycling are on their website, but there must be more information somewhere. Brent stated that there was a notice in the village newsletter that electronic recycling can be done for a \$25 fee. There are many communities that do this for free. Question as to why our village does not host an electronic recycling event for free? Such an event could include paper shredding as well as hazardous household waste. There could also be a competition for pounds per household recycled materials. Mike will call SWALCO to invite them to come to a future meeting to get more information for such an event.

c. **Education**

~Mel reported that gleaning has occurred several times and over 200 lbs of fresh vegetables have been donated to Open Arms so far.

~There was discussion about offering raised plots next year to enable gardeners with disabilities to participate in the community garden. Mel will check with Dustin about zoning before putting in raised plots.

~A motion to construct 4 raised beds in the community garden was made by Meredith. 2nd by Cynthia. Further discussion followed. Voice vote – all aye. Motion passed.

~ Mel stated that many calls have already been received inquiring about plots for next year. There was discussion about how to distribute plots. Brent felt that since the garden is on village property, residents of the village should be considered first before allowing residents of the township or from other areas. If after a certain date, there are open plots, then plots could be available for others. The committee will create a policy for this and report back.

There was a question as to whether plots should be offered to existing gardeners or if it will be a lottery each year. This issue will be discussed at the CLC Community Garden Forum tomorrow before making a decision. Mel and Meredith plan to attend and will gather information on this issue. The Community Garden Agreement will need to be amended to reflect the policy that is decided upon.

d. **Green Building**

Casey will be attending USGBC GreenBuild International Conference and Expo on Oct 4-7, 2011.

4. Old Business:

New member interest – Meredith talked to one of her neighbors that may be interested. Information will be passed on to Scott or Mayor Hanson.

5. New Business:

~Mike introduced the idea of hosting an Earth Day event. Earth Day is Sunday, April 22nd, 2012. The Celebration Event could be the weekend of the 21st and 22nd. We should start planning for next year by thinking of ideas for the event. It was suggested that a recycling event including electronics, hazardous household waste, paper shredding, etc. could be planned. The event could be held near the community garden/farmer's market area. If it rains, we could possibly use the AES gym. Brook Wetland clean-up could also be part of the event. Cynthia suggested a tree replacement idea. Other activity suggestions should be brought to the next meeting.

~Peter mentioned the Green event at CLC coming up. There will be a workshop on Natural Lawn Care and Sustainable Landscape on October 13th from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm in room C005. Registration and more information can be found at www.libertyprairie.org. An EC member should plan to attend.

Motion to Adjourn: Brent. 2nd by Meredith All aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Next Meeting – Monday, October 24, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Melonnie Hartl