



Village of Antioch - Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2011

There was a motion made by Melonnie Hartl to nominate Brent Bluthardt to act as chairman for tonight's meeting due to the absence of Chairman Babicz. Motion was seconded by Casey Furlong. Voice vote - all aye.

1. Called to Order: The Environmental Commission was called to order by Brent at 6:35 pm in the Board Room at Antioch Village Hall: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

Present – Those present were: Members Brent Bluthardt, Melonnie Hartl, Casey Furlong, Peter Grant, Glenn Semple, Cynthia Stepanek, Village Trustee Scott Pierce. Guests present: Stuart Malsch
Absent: Chairman Babicz, Christina Landgren

2. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting on Jan. 24, 2011 by Glenn, 2nd by Cynthia. Voice vote – all aye.
3. Shawn Lahr had to cancel. He will attend the March meeting.
4. Committee reports:
 - a. Not all members have chosen a committee. The list was passed around for people to sign up. The completed list will be presented to Chairman Babicz at the next meeting for approval. There is concern about the number of people on a committee. If there are three or more members, an official meeting agenda and minutes must be posted 48 hours ahead of time. The more people, the more input which is good, however, if there are less than three, an official posting will not be needed. Committees will be finalized at the next meeting.
5. Old Business:
 - a. No official candidates have followed through with a formal application at this time.
 - b. Just a reminder to members to submit biographies.
 - c. Wild Things Conference. Mel is the only one registered. Cynthia may go. A report will be made at the next meeting. There is no budget for the EC so no receipts can be submitted. Trustee Pierce mentioned that if we put together a tentative budget of expenses that may be necessary, he would bring it up the board.
 - d. Last month, Mayor Hanson mentioned that he was looking at alternate lighting for the streets. Glenn inquired what the status was. Casey reported that many of the street lights were owned and operated by Com Ed – only a few were owned by the village. If the village doesn't own them, can the lighting be switched? It is not known if Com Ed would support this program initiative. No one knows the outcome of the project at this point. LED lighting is somewhat new technology. The lights we have now are very dependable, but may be more fragile. The long

run cost would be a savings, but the initial outlay would be quite expensive. There is a depreciation that could be taken the first year – could soften /reduce the cost basis. But that is applicable for a private business, not a municipality. There is a map somewhere of who owns what. Right now the cost is \$18,000 - \$20,000 per month. If repairs need to be made – it is always a battle determining who is responsible for the repairs.

- e. Casey readdressed the “Pay as You Throw” Program. The more you use or contribute, the more you pay. Waste Management would provide different sized containers. Trustee Pierce believes that right now, WM does offer a smaller container (for seniors) with a slightly reduced cost. This program is an economic incentive to recycle. Community recycling (like Grayslake) is not available in Antioch, but Peter mentioned that his subdivision is doing a pilot program this summer and will let us know how it goes. Some of his neighbors will not join the association because they do not have a recycling program. Trustee Pierce will contact WM to see if they would come to one of our meetings to let us know the types of programs they offer and those that are available through the village’s existing contract.

6. New Business:

- a. Melonnie introduced a proposal to create a community garden in Antioch. The purpose of the garden would be to encourage healthy living by providing land for residents to plant a garden with vegetables. A portion of the harvest would be donated to neighbors in need through Open Arms Mission. Discussion followed. Peter stated that his daughter is involved with a community garden in Kenosha and would be a good resource. **Glenn mentioned that he thought he heard that Lindenhurst had attempted a garden at one time, but it may have not been successful due to maintenance issues.** Mel will meet with Rory Klick from CLC Horticulture department to learn more about the success of their garden.
- b. Cynthia presented information about the Water Keeper’s Alliance. Trustee Pierce informed us that the village is pursuing water from Lake Michigan. **It was mentioned that if Lake Michigan water is approved, it is likely residential rates will increase. Glenn mentioned that water rates are higher in some of Antioch’s East communities (e.g. Neuman, Neuhausen, Pulte) due to their wastewater / sewer going to Northshore Sanitary District vs. the Village.** A conservation plan must be put into place. This may be an issue that can be brought up with the Alliance. Grants may also be available from them. A detailed plan must be submitted and accepted to be in this program. Right now, the more water used, the more people pay. It is progressive rate.
- c. Cynthia reported that the village of Antioch is not included in North Mill Dutch Creek area. She said that Patti would be willing to come to our meeting at some point to explain how they organized their group to obtain money from the federal government to help the farmers.
- d. Peter mentioned that Round Lake was having a green event this weekend for anyone interested.
- e. Brent stated that there should be some type of funding for education for the EC members so that we could become more knowledgeable to help the village. He asked Trustee Pierce to put in a request to the village to consider some funding for print information, workshops, etc. Grants may be available for EC formation. Brent stated that a list of potential expenditures should be composed and given to Chairman Babicz to present to the village. Members should start thinking about what needs we may have for our committees.

- f. Brent inquired if the village had an “Adopt a Park” program. Trustee Pierce said there used to be a program, but does not think it is active right now. He will ask about Adopt a Street, and also pass the Adopt a Park question to the park department.
 - g. Glenn – Earth day – any event going on this year in the village? Trustee Pierce did not believe so, but ideas for next year would be good.
 - h. Glenn – Energy audit? Could we have one done for the village? Recommendations could then be made to us or the village of ways that we could help our community be more green. Trustee
7. 6a. - 6th Sentence: Change to “Glenn mentioned that he thought he heard that Lindenhurst had attempted a garden at one time, but it may have not been successful due to maintenance issues”.
8. 6b. – add after 2nd sentence: It was mentioned that if Lake Michigan water is approved, it is likely residential rates will increase.
9. Also add to 6b: Glenn mentioned that water rates are higher in some of Antioch’s East communities (e.g. Neuman, Neuhaven, Pulte) due to their wastewater / sewer going to Northshore Sanitary District vs. the Village.

Pierce said that there was a utility audit done recently, but the findings were that the village was losing money by not billing correctly. Can we have a company give a quote or must there be several to bid on the company? There are legal limits - \$10,000 above – must go out for bid. There are different ways to work with the companies. A grant could be found to pay for this type of service/audit. We can try to find grants available for this and present to the village. – Glenn – suggested Siben Energy. Glenn will pursue a representative of this company to meet with us to get details.

- a. Trustee Pierce will ask the village how we go about bringing forward information and seeing it progress into a project that we can actually work on. We must get a set plan and make a presentation to the board and sell it to them.
- b. Glenn – neighbors asking why village still has the Christmas lighting on. Trustee Pierce said that it is not considered holiday lighting, but rather to create an ambiance during the winter. Later in the year, it will only be on for festivals.

Next Meeting – March 28, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

10. Motion to Adjourn: Peter made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by Glenn. Voice vote - all aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Submitted by Melonnie Hartl