



Village of Antioch - Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2012

1. Call to Order: The Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Babicz at 6:30 pm in the Board Room at Antioch Village Hall: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

Present : Chairman Mike Babicz, Members Amanda LeBrun, Peter Grant, Meredith Schnelle, Melonnie Hartl, Casey Furlong, Scott Frillman and Trustee Scott Pierce

Absent: Cynthia Stepanek

Guests: Amy Bell

Lori Folbrick swore in Amy Bell as a new member of the Environmental Commission. Welcome Amy!

2. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting from July 23, 2012 by Peter, 2nd by Amanda. Voice vote – 7 aye. Peter abstained

3. Committee Reports

- a. ***Alternative Energy***

No report.

- b. ***Conservation***

Amy was added to this committee.

The governor vetoed the plastic bag bill. Walmart will put up signs in the parking lot to remind customers to bring in their own bags or containers to use. There are already signs on the doors. Amy was instrumental in arranging this. She also suggested that the baggers be instructed to pack the bags fuller so less bags would be used. Piggly Wiggly has the bag-a-buck program. If your own bags are brought in and used, they get a punch on a card and will earn a \$1 when it is filled.

Casey found a report on plastic vs paper and the cost of producing each.

Scott gave a report on fluorescent bulbs. Individuals can use SWALCO to dispose of bulbs, however businesses must pay. Municipalities may have to do this too. Question was raised - What do schools do with them? Scott had an Article from the Daily Herald about disposing hazardous material in the “At Your Door” Program in Lake Villa as a pilot program. Residents are charged \$1 a month if they use it or not. There was an idea brought up to ask an electrician what they do if they need to dispose of fluorescent bulbs. Our goal is to educate the public and businesses how to dispose of the bulbs and provide a service for residents if possible. Scott will call SWALCO to get more information.

Motion to make a recommendation to the village board to pursue the ‘At Your Door Program’ with SWALCO similar to the one occurring in Lake Villa by Meredith. 2nd by Scott. All aye.

Mel will send the motion to Scott P, copy the mayor and Lori and also reference the article from the 8/3/12 edition of the Daily Herald entitled “Lake Villa pilot program yields tons of electronics and household hazardous waste”.

c. *Education*

- Mel gave an update on the community garden. The Antioch Garden Club’s Garden Walk gave many people the opportunity to tour the community garden. A canopy was set up with picnic tables, mulch was spread and the gardens cleaned up. Our first gleaning produced 80 pounds. Ten people showed up to help glean and are interested in being the Glean Team. We will glean every Tuesday beginning at 6:00 pm.
- Motion was made to have Mel email gardeners about coming back – deadline in October. Cost the same if paid now. Prices may go up. Casey made the motion, 2nd by Amanda. All aye.
- Discussion about compost. The EC should inform the public of composting benefits, how to do it, use it etc. Idea brought up to develop a link to village website for this type of information.
- Meredith reported that there is an industrial compost tumbler for sale. We need to check with the village to see if this type of bin can be put there without violating any ordinances.
- Need to develop an EC website and then provide links for info for the public. A new committee will be formed to do this. Meredith and Amy will head the committee. Scott will be the alternate.

d. *Green Building*

Amanda: New construction and existing building LEED standards. State and local governments can join the U. S. Green Building Council. They offer classes and resources to become LEED certified. She will contact Jim Keim to find out if they have looked into this or if anyone has taken classes on this yet and perhaps guide us in some direction.

4. Old Business:

RecycleBank program, **www.recyclebank.com**. A waste driver collects all the waste and weighs the amount of recycling through a personalized bill from the waste hauler. Casey suggested that we wait and see how successful the program is with Gurnee and Buffalo Grove and then pursue more information. There is an incentive for a substantial amount of money for the municipality that recycles the most. We already do well as a community, but more funding may be within reach if we can do more.

5. New Business:

Amy spoke about animal waste recycling.

Mike mentioned an article in the News Sun about a food composting company in Park City. Casey stated that most of the food waste is coming from Highland Park.

Motion to Adjourn: Peter, 2nd by Amy. Voice vote - all aye. Meeting adjourned at 8: 20 pm.

Next Meeting – Monday, September 24, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Melonnie Hartl