



Village of Antioch - Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

Sept. 28, 2015

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

Present: Chairman Mike Babicz, Melonnie Hartl, Peter Grant, Scott Frillman, Amy Bell, Amanda LeBrun arrived at 6:32pm. Trustee Ed Macek arrived at 7:25.

Absent: Meghan Petrowski, Sandra Emmerling

2. A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes from the June 22, 2015 meeting by Peter, 2nd by Amy. Voice vote – all aye.

3. Committee Reports

- a. *Alternative Energy* – No report

- b. *Conservation* - No report

- c. *Education* - Mel gave a Community Garden update. Discussion followed with ideas on how to keep the gardeners interested in keeping their plots weed free. A suggestion was made to have a competition for the best kept plot and offer the winner a free plot for next year. Invite Regina Reynolds from the Milburn garden or other community garden coordinators to speak about what works best for them at their gardens. Another idea to control weeds from vacant plots was to plant native plants and then have a plant sale and possibly having the Antioch High School be involved. The village newsletter may also be a good tool by submitting an article asking for community volunteers to help.

- d. *Communication* - No report

- e. *Earth Day EcoFair* - No report

4. Old Business –

5. New Business – Restructuring of the commission. Based on the discussion and suggestions from the COW meeting, the Village Board committed to supporting the EC and our projects.

Motion by Peter to recommend to the Board to change the ordinance Section 2.9.1A to have 6 people on the Commission. Second by Scott. All aye.

Discussion continued as follows:

The Community Garden and the EcoFair are two projects that we plan to continue. The Village Nursery idea may also be one of the projects that we will go forward with.

Per the existing ordinance, commission members should be officially reappointed when the term expires. Melonnie should have been reappointed in May for the term that ended April 30th.

The ordinance was reviewed. It may be a good idea to look at the other village commission ordinances and have the EC ordinance be rewritten to be very similar to theirs. All commissions should be treated the same.

More communication needs to be done with the board but also with the community itself perhaps through the newsletter, website, etc. A blurb should be submitted EVERY month with fun facts, happenings with the EC, etc.

The committee structure will no longer be used. Reports will be made concerning the projects being worked on each month.

Commission members are asked to Review all the other commissions ordinances and compare them with ours, and come up with recommendations for changes concerning the “officers” – chairperson, secretary, vice-chair, etc., terms, pay, etc.

Scott reported on the Climate Week presentation that he attended last week at CLC. He spoke to Dave Wilms about Solar Energy projects. Dave suggested many alternatives to the possibility of having solar panels at the Water Waste Treatment Plant.

A motion was made by Scott to invite Dave Wilms of C& E Company to tour the water treatment facility to do a feasibility study for solar panels at the plant. Second by Amanda. All aye.

Scott brought up the discussion that the Board had at the COW meeting about traffic calming and the speed control (radar). If the village is going to have these devices, it would be nice to have them look at an environmentally friendly device that is solar powered.

6. Motion to Adjourn: by Amanda. 2nd by Scott. Voice vote – all aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Next Meeting – **Monday, October 26, 2015 at 6:30 pm.**

Submitted by Secretary Melonnie Hartl