



Village of Antioch - Environmental Commission

June 25, 2018

Meeting Minutes

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

Present: Chairman Mike Babicz, Melonnie Hartl, Anna Andersen, Mark Tarkowski, Trustee Jay Jozwiak,

Absent: Peter Grant, Alternate Melissa Marra, Alternate Scott Frillman

Guest: Kandis Gallentine

1. A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes from the April 23, 2018 meeting by Anna, 2nd by Melonnie. Voice vote – all AYE. (Mark abstained)

Welcome to new member Mark Tarkowski who was appointed and sworn in at a Village Board Meeting on June 11, 2018.

2. Project Reports

a. *Community Garden* –

Interest in the Community Garden has dwindled. Out of 45 plots there are 27 plots assigned, but only 12 are paid plots. The Junior Women's Club has taken on 8 plots to grow veggies for Open Arms Mission exclusively. Three other gardeners said they would take on an extra plot for Open Arms as well. One double plot is the Environmental Commissions. The Garden Club was given a plot next to Cynthia Stepanek's since she is the contact for that committee of their club, but she has not cleaned up her plots from last year yet or begun to garden either of the plots for this year. We had agreed to give 2 plots and additional area for the Monarch Project, but they have not done any work on that either.

The village brought a tiller to the garden and some of the gardeners had used it, but somehow damaged it. They had to come pick it up for repairs. It was quite large and may have been too hard for them to handle. I requested that we rent a smaller one from A to Z for a weekend and the village had arranged that. I tilled 11 plots and the Junior Women's club used it as well.

As garden coordinator, I have been trying to assign plots and work with the gardeners, arrange for equipment, soil and mulch deliveries and maintain the unused plots and common areas. It is a bit much for one person. My suggestion is that the Commission take more interest and participate in the projects that we have – or let them go.

The project with Antioch High School never got started even though Jamie and I had communicated a couple of times by email, but my latest emails for the past two weeks have gone unanswered.

Anna suggested holding programs on bee keeping, etc. to be held at the garden possibly the same night as the concerts which are at 7:30 pm twice a month.

Jay suggested we schedule a work day and have commission members sign up to work as well as other gardeners.

Mel will make a flyer and send it to Anna to do an email blast to offer anyone a plot ½ price this year – or free for the rest of this year if they pay for a plot for next year.

*b. **Earth Day EcoFair** –*

Anna said for the most part people liked the location, but some did not. The responses also stated that they would like more children's activities and small businesses represented.

Earth Day next year is Monday, April 22nd. Tentative date for the EcoFair next year is Saturday, April 27th at the Antioch Township Building.

The Parks Bike Sale will be held the same day, but the location is in question. Mark will talk with Robby about coordinating the two events.

- The podcast was nice, but not sure there is enough value for the cost. If we could promote the podcast on our website, that may help. "216thenet" is the location of the podcast.
- We will check with WIIL again for next year. They were late in responding, but then said they would have done it for free.

3. Old Business

- **Village Nursery update** – The proposal is not needed now. Mike just needs to talk to Jim Keim. One issue is that there may no longer be access to water. Mike will put together a plan for discussion with Jim.

- **Peace Garden Project** – Randi Scheurez (Rotary Club has funds to support a Peace Garden). Mike will try to contact him for more information. It could possibly be incorporated into the Community Garden (even though the space is not permanent).

- **Anna's Grant** – Will be addressed at next meeting.

4. New Business

- a. At one time, there was discussion that the Environmental Commission become a subcommittee of the Parks Department. This would provide more people and more funds to work on projects. More thought needs to be given to this idea. Mark is also on the Parks committee and will be an asset in creating a partnership with them.
- b. Mark brought up that the New Haven community is doing a prescribed burn. The middle of the area is owned by the Village. Mark will talk to Robby about perhaps getting funds from Parks to do the burn on this property.

Motion to Adjourn by Anna, 2nd by Mark. Voice vote – all aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Next Meeting – **Monday, July 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm.** Submitted by secretary Melonnie Hartl