

# ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, February 4, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.

Village of Niles Administration Building  
1000 Civic Center Drive  
Council Chambers

**Members Present:** Rosemary Palicki - Chair, Chris Zalinski, Bob Johnson

**Also present:** Hadley Skeffington-Vos – staff liaison

**Absent:** Tony Dati

Meeting started at 5:02pm.

## **I. Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made to approve and minutes and seconded. Unanimous approval.

## **II. New Business**

### **Arbor Day Celebrations**

Date is set for Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>. Tony secured a donated tree from St. Aubin Nursery. Once the location is determined, they can determine the best tree species to be planted there. Schools in Niles that haven't received a tree are Gemini, Emerson, Nelson and Washington. The Committee pulled Emerson out of a cup and then SJB as a back-up school if Emerson isn't interested. Hadley will contact the school(s) and inquire about interest, schedule, dietary restrictions, etc.

### **Fourth of July**

The committee will focus on electricity and have a game to win LED lightbulbs. The float will echo the same theme. It has been budgeted in the FY15/16 budget.

### **Hand Dryer Project**

Hadley updated the committee on the installation of hand dryers in Village facilities. Public Services will head the project, has two grants to cover up to 75% of the costs, budgeted for the expense and revenue, and will test several models. They will also install the dryers themselves.

### **Efficiency Contest Ideas**

The committee will continue to brainstorm ideas for conservation programs or contests for the summer months. Instead of water, the idea of ComEd bills or energy conservation came up. It could be limited to the first 50 participants. Simply bring in your ComEd bills and have staff analyze the savings in energy use. Hadley will contact ComEd if all the bills are delivered at the same time and when August bills go out to residents in September. The deadline would be one single week in September to bring in June, July and August bills. There will be a first, second and third prize for the greatest % energy reduction compared to the same time last year. It was discussed to have a pre-registration in order to send reminders, but the committee doesn't want to discourage residents or add too much to the process. Discussion of prizes circulated around first prize \$250, second prize \$150, and third place \$100 or increasing the amount of winners to top five. Amounts would be in the form of gift cards to local businesses.

### **Green Business Award Review**

The Committee decided to update the award program to focus on one area each year for the next five years, starting with Waste Reduction & Recycling.

For Waste Reduction & Recycling, one essay question that reads “During the last 5 years, what waste reduction efforts have you implemented in your business and how have you expanded your recycling effort?” (limit to 500 words). All the multiple choice questions would be eliminated from the previous application. In addition, each year will be an Innovation Award option with the question “List any innovative or environmentally friendly practice you’ve implemented in the last five years.” The award could be a traveling award or a sticker to put on a business window. \$250 was budgeted for the program. The EPC will discuss more next month.

Hadley will update those applications and email them to the committee for review.

### **Rain Garden Update**

Hadley updated the EPC on the rain garden signage going in this spring with grant money awarded last year through ComEd’s Green Region Open Lands grant program. There will be plant identifiers and a larger educational sign.

### **III. Open Discussion**

Chris brought materials from magazines and a seminar he went to regarding sustainable solutions. He brought information on water and irrigation audits. Hadley will put that on the agenda for next month and will touch base with Public Services staff.

Hadley will put in the EPC insert for the spring newsletter that we’re looking for committee members.

Hadley will check with Joe from the Park District on a community garden location. Possible location near IceLand and Gemini.

### **IV. Public Comment**

None

### **V. Next Meeting**

The next meeting date will be Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

Meeting concluded at 5:57pm. Unanimous vote to adjourn.