

ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, March 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, Tony Dati

Also present: Hadley Skeffington-Vos – staff liaison, 2 members of the public

Meeting started at 5:01pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve and minutes from last month's meeting and seconded. Unanimous approval.

II. New Business

Arbor Day Celebrations

Emerson confirmed their participation in the April 24th ceremony. They will be sending Hadley more details about times, food, activities, etc. in the coming weeks. The Village contracts with St. Aubin for street tree plantings, and they will be donating a tree for the ceremony.

Hadley will request a definite start time from Emerson School before the March Board meeting, so the public can hear all the event details.

Through an email, the Mayor suggested a specimen tree that be designated as the "Village Tree" in a separate ceremony than Arbor Day at Emerson. The Mayor requested a 25' Red Oak tree be planted near the Waterfall at Touhy and Milwaukee. Public Services is looking into site specifications. The cost would be \$1,100 for the cost of the tree and transplanting. The location is visible from Milwaukee Avenue. Hadley contacted ComEd about being a sponsor of the costs. Another location was suggested near Village Hall at Waukegan and Oakton. It would have to be a smaller tree, as a larger tree would not be appropriate. Hadley will talk with the Mayor further about the event, and the committee will await confirmation.

Efficiency Contest Ideas

Hadley talked to two representatives from ComEd about the program. ComEd helped Glen Ellyn with a similar program in 2012. The program required pre-registration and utilized reminder emails and prizes to motivate program participants. Hadley will confirm with ComEd if they help Niles with a similar program and if ComEd can send the reminder emails to participants and perform weather normalization.

The Committee felt that a one-time prize at the end of the contest would be easier, as opposed to little prizes along the way. If ComEd can send the reminder emails and updates to the contest participants, then we would like to do that. The Village doesn't have the staff or capability to do that on their own. Since there isn't an event in the spring, residents would have to sign up through email or coming to Village Hall. The Village newsletter goes out June 1st, so the program should run July through September. The Village's aggregation is also coming out about the same time in June, so the committee doesn't want to confuse residents.

Green Business Award Review

The Committee performed a final review of the new award program. The EPC approved the shorter version and new design of the program/application. Motion to approve, seconded and unanimous approval.

Besides having the applications available at the kiosk and Village website, the Chamber can also help in promote the program. The Committee could attend a Business After Hours event or the Golf Outing to further promote the program.

ComEd Green Region Grant Application

Hadley updated the Committee on the 2015 grant application to ComEd's Green Region program. Originally the Village wanted to apply for the creation of a community garden, but a location could not be determined before the March 6th deadline. The 2015 application will instead be for artistic bicycle racks and signage near open spaces throughout the Village. Notifications will be sent in late June to applicants. Once the Village finds out if it was awarded the grant, a committee or group will be formed to determine locations and signage details.

Hadley will contact ComEd about locations for a community garden on their property. Then the Committee can look at pros and cons and details regarding water and programming.

III. Open Discussion

Upcoming dates to note: March 28th from 8:30-9:30pm is Earth Hour, in which the Village will dim all non-emergency lights. Earth Day is April 22nd but nothing special is planned. World Environment Day is Saturday June 6th.

Bike Niles is June 6th and the planning committee is looking for everyone to participate.

Tony asked about a float theme/idea for the 4th of July. Tony will contact some lighting companies about inflatable light bulbs or other decorations the committee could incorporate in the float.

Rosemary provided a link and handout on SWANCC Eco Landscaping Guide, and recommended all the committee members read the handout. Moving forward and looking at goals, the committee should consider some ideas for EPC goals.

IV. Public Comment

Allie Corado works for Elevate Energy, a non-profit energy group. Elevate Energy is going to be conducting some energy outreach in Niles (smart meters/smart grid technology, homeowner free energy assessments/utility discounts, Clean Air Act policy work). Allie would like to come to the next EPC meeting to work with the EPC on promotion of energy efficiency (elevateenergy.org).

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be Wednesday April 1st at 5:00pm.

Meeting concluded at 5:48pm. Unanimous vote to adjourn.