

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

First Floor Conference Room
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Tuesday, June 21, 2011— 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Environmental Quality Control Commission of the Village of La Grange was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, at the Village Hall and was called to order by Chairman Glenn Wentink at 6:40 p.m.

PRESENT (and constituting a quorum): Commissioners Battistoni, Christianson, Gabrek, Hirt, and Weber, with Chairman Wentink presiding.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Trustee Bill Holder and Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Hirt, seconded by Commissioner Christianson to approve the minutes from May 23, 2011 with one typographical error noted in Item 6. The date of the next EQCC Meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 21 instead of May 21. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. BUSINESS AT HAND

A. Recycling / Refuse Disposal

Chairman Wentink reported that the primary topic of discussion for the EQCC at this time was related to a recommendation to the Village Board regarding a proposed structure for the upcoming refuse / recycling contract renewal. As a part of that recommendation, the development of a resident survey which would provide feedback to the Village and also help educate residents regarding refuse disposal and recycling, has also been identified.

Chairman Wentink noted that much had been learned from the speaker series conducted by the EQCC. The consensus of the EQCC thus far raises a question as to whether the Village can continue to support a sticker (pay as you throw) system as it may create a competitive

disadvantage during the next bidding process. Haulers bidding on the Village's program will likely place a strong emphasis on the revenue consistency that a subscription program offers. Wheeled toters also appear to be the wave of the future as trucks are outfitted for mechanical collection in order to predict manpower and reduce risk related costs.

If the EQCC focuses on recommending a Village-wide toter program, it will still be a challenge to determine appropriate options (sizes) under a cart program. There is also merit in considering whether the cost of the carts will be amortized, whether residents will supplement the cost on the water bill and / or whether or not tags will be used for additional refuse. Senior discounting is also an issue to consider.

Discussion ensued among Commissioners regarding the program structure and draft communication piece to residents. Comments included continuing to handle yard waste separately via stickers; eliminating stickers altogether in lieu of providing a separate toter for refuse, recycling and yard waste options; and whether or not the survey should gauge preferences or serve more as an educational piece for residents regarding program options.

Commissioners also weighed whether or not to offer the current sticker program at all; move to an all-toter program with variable cart sizes; or provide a transitional period where stickers could still be used in conjunction with the toters. The Commissioners discussed the merits of whether or not refuse is a commodity like water or electricity whereby you have a minimum bill whether you use the service or not in the context of potential "vacation amnesty" provisions.

It was noted that the optional toter program currently available to residents has become more and more popular with approximately 665 households currently subscribing.

Commissioners discussed the merits of sending out a resident survey prior to making a recommendation to the Village Board. There were concerns raised that the draft survey was too long and may be confusing to residents as a change may not be embraced. Instead, the survey could potentially ask residents what is most important to them (price, ease, compliance, recycling) when considering their refuse program, but not necessarily provide specific program options at that time.

The consensus of the EQCC was to recommend to the Village Board that the refuse system should be changed with an objective that it is: 1) responsive to variable needs (provides options to cater to a variety of users); 2) convenient; 3) cost effective (stable costs); 4) environmentally sound (incentivize and increase recycling); and 5) reduces litter (wind and animals). These objectives would be recited in the recommended structure of the program.

The EQCC determined that discussion of a survey instrument had evolved into more of an

informational piece where feedback would be solicited on the program objectives. It was determined that a much more streamlined document would be necessary for this purpose and it was agreed that the EQCC would continue to work on the message points.

The EQCC also discussed a general framework for an upcoming presentation to the Village Board with a recommendation regarding the refuse / recycling program. Next steps in the process and a date of the presentation would be provided to the EQCC after conferring with President Asperger.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Hirt mentioned ongoing environmental issues in Denning Park which were identified in a recent Suburban Life article.

6. SCHEDULE NEXT EQCC MEETING

No subsequent meeting date was determined. Comments regarding potential changes to the refuse / recycling communication piece would be handled via e mail.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business before the Environmental Quality Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager