

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

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

Monday, September 22, 2014— 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 Monday, September 22, 2014, at the Village Hall and was called to order by Chairman Glenn Wentink at 6:31 p.m.

PRESENT (and constituting a quorum): Commissioners Davies, Nasif, and Weber, with Chairman Wentink presiding.

ABSENT: Commissioners Battistoni, Christianson and Gabrek

ALSO PRESENT: President Tom Livingston and Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve the minutes from June 21, 2011. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Wentink noted that although the Commission had not met for some time, the group had not been idle. Since the last meeting the EQCC has been involved in several important initiatives including Energy Impact Illinois, commenting on the Cook County Solid Waste Plan, quarry blasting, and “green initiatives”.

3. INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Wentink introduced and welcomed Rebecca Davies and Rose Nasif who were recently appointed to the Environmental Quality Control Commission.

4. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT TOM LIVINGSTON

President Livingston thanked Chairman Wentink and the other members of the EQCC for their service to the community. He noted that the 2020 Task Force had recently presented a report to the Village Board with recommended community initiatives. President Livingston invited the EQCC to assist the Village Board with their analysis of the recommendations by taking a closer look at stormwater management related matters; continuing to market “green” initiatives; business related programs; potential Village events; and energy efficiency initiatives.

5. BUSINESS AT HAND

A. Safe Transportation of Crude Oil

Chairman Wentink reported that in July, 2014, the US DOT released a rulemaking proposal to improve the safe transportation of large quantities of flammable materials by rail. He noted that an organization of municipalities (TRAC) is weighing in on the proposed rulemaking. Some communities including the City of Chicago have passed resolutions on the matter and legislation is also being considered which would potentially enable municipalities to pass hazardous materials fees. The Commission expressed an interest in learning more about the preparedness of the Fire Department and other agencies to address rail emergencies. It was suggested that speakers from the Fire Department and BNSF be scheduled for a future meeting on this topic. In preparation for the future meeting, Commissioners were encouraged to refine the facts and prepare advanced questions.

B. Sewer System Improvements

Chairman Wentink reported that this summer the Village experienced five significant rain events which generally ranged between a 1 and 100 year storm event. The Village is in the process of considering several stormwater management infrastructure initiatives for the upcoming budget.

Commissioner Davies mentioned that she attended a sustainability summit and heard a representative from the EPA speak about stormwater management initiatives such as raingardens. After discussion, the Commission agreed to invite the EPA representative to speak to the EQCC at an upcoming meeting.

C. Airport Noise

Chairman Wentink briefly advised the Commission that the Village is monitoring a handful of complaints related to Midway Airport Noise and has been in contact with the Chicago Department of Aviation. It appears that the complaints were isolated to temporary flight pattern changes as a result of runway availability. Updates will be provided to the EQCC in

the future if necessary.

D. Water Allocation / Sustainability

Chairman Wentink briefly advised the Commission that the EQCC has been asked to monitor issues of general impact related to Lake Michigan water health and conservation and report back to the Village on any issues of concern. The Village will be asked to share information regarding the new water metering system as it becomes available.

E. Keep West Cook Beautiful Grant Program

Chairman Wentink advised the Commission that the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency has announced a round of grant funding through the Keep West Cook Beautiful Grant program. Commission members identified increased recycling in the downtown area as a desirable goal and will work with staff to submit a grant application.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Quarry Blasting

Chairman Wentink advised the Commission that the Village continues to monitor quarry blasting activities. A report from Northwestern University is anticipated this fall regarding the analysis that they have been undertaking since the severe tremor that impacted the region in November, 2013.

B. Emerald Ash Borer

Chairman Wentink provided a report to Commissioners regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. The Village has approximately 1,600 ash trees. To date a total of 895 ash trees have been removed and replaced. An additional 235 trees are expected to be removed this year. A pilot program for treating approximately 112 health white ash trees has been ongoing. Twenty seven trees being treated are located on private property.

Commissioners discussed the importance of maintaining a healthy and vibrant urban forest as it has an impact on real estate values and quality of life. Commissioners asked staff to provide a report on the health of those ash trees that have been undergoing treatment.

C. Green Initiatives

Chairman Wentink advised the Commission that information regarding the Village's "green initiatives" is available on the website. At the request of the EQCC, the budget includes "green dots" to help identify items with an environmental impact.

D. Website Communications

Chairman Wentink asked Commissioners to review the information on the website and assist staff with suggestions on improving communications to the public on environmental issues.

E. Curbside Refuse / Recycling Program

Chairman Wentink provided a brief update to Commissioners regarding the status of the refuse contract which does not expire until April, 2017. The EQCC was heavily involved in evaluating the program and providing a recommendation to the Village Board of suggested program parameters. Maintaining a strong recycling program is important to the EQCC and the new program provides for a free 65 gallon recycling toter with each refuse toter subscription. Subscriptions to the toter program have increased significantly under the new contract provisions. Currently the program has 1,690 toter subscriptions with 809 of the larger 95 gallon size and 888 of the smaller 65 gallon size. The EQCC will continue to monitor this program.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed a potential post-Halloween pumpkin collection for commercial composting and will talk to staff about possible implementation.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT EQCC MEETING

The Commission prioritized the issues of discussion and agreed that the highest priority issue was stormwater management. The Commission directed staff to contact the representative from the EPA to speak at the next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business before the Environmental Quality Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager