

DOWNERS GROVE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMISSION

Minutes

October 8, 2015

I. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Pelloso, Commissioner Marron, Commissioner Mlade (arrived late),
Commissioner Salman, Commissioner Getz

Absent: Commissioner McCann, Commissioner Riley

II. Visitor Welcome

There were no visitors present.

III. View and Approval of February 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Pelloso was not present at the meeting and had a few clarification questions on the minutes regarding the tree sale and other parts of the presentation from the Conservation Foundation.

Chairman Pelloso also mentioned strategic planning for the commission, for each commissioner to pick one or a few issues. She wants to be sure this happens.

Chairman Pelloso also asked about the SCARCE visit, and the green business application which would be discussed further in tonight's meeting.

Chairman Pelloso also asked about the publications through the Village and asked Ms. Miles what she found out on that topic. Ms. Miles stated former employee and staff liaison Mr. Santoro had begun talking to the communication department about putting out ECC information in Village publications, but nothing formal had been created.

Commissioner Marron noted the importance of having each commissioner bringing strategic items to the next meeting and asked Ms. Miles to include that note in the reminder email for the next meeting.

Motion to approve minutes, minutes were approved. Commissioner Getz noted she was not present at the Feb. meeting, but did read the minutes. Motion made to approve minutes, passed by a voice vote.

IV. Staff update on ongoing projects

Ms. Miles gave an update on the Village's prescription drug program. Ms. Miles spoke with Marion Heintz – Public Education Manager at the Village's police department for more information on our prescription drug program. Ms. Heintz explained how the

process is in its current state because of the police department's accreditation. Prescriptions are handled as evidence and need to be controlled. The commissioners can reach out to the Public Education Manager for more information.

Commissioner Marron asked if the specific accreditation required this type of process or if it was our interpretation of the policy. Ms. Miles stated she was unsure. Chairman Pelloso mentioned there has been more negative feedback on the policy.

Commissioner Mlade arrived and Ms. Miles reviewed the current program and our accreditation policy for Commissioner Mlade. Commissioner Mlade expressed his concerns again on the policy and its restrictive nature with appointments. All commissioners expressed interest in learning more about the accreditation, and finding out if the policy can be changed.

Next Ms. Miles updated the commission on the solid waste contract. She reviewed that at the August 18 meeting, the council directed staff to proceed with the two year extension with options of Amnesty Day and a Downtown Recycling program. The council would vote on the extension on October 13.

Ms. Miles mentioned the ECC could help to promote the Downtown Recycling program for the Village, and help with the rollout.

Commissioner Mlade asked for the cost of the program and Ms. Miles stated the costs.

Commissioner Getz mentioned it would be nice to be able to issue a short statement on the proposed contract extension. There was discussion on the extension and, Commissioner Marron said he is comfortable recommending the downtown recycling program, but remaining neutral on Amnesty Day. Other commissioners agreed with that statement.

There was also discussion on having a council member present at meetings so questions on agenda items relevant to the ECC could be asked.

V. New Business

Ms. Miles discussed the green business revisions made by Commissioner Mlade and noted she had copies available for the commissioners. She also reiterated the history of the program – to get businesses to start with recycling, and make small incremental changes to build upon. She mentioned a few new applications received since last year. She then asked Commissioner Mlade if he would like to discuss those revisions, and Commissioner Mlade said they would need to all review them next month as the revisions were made several months ago.

Chairman Pelloso mentioned she was pleased with the initial revisions and suggestions made on the application and proposed an idea of checking in with the businesses after a certain time frame to see if they are interested in future sustainability efforts; liked the open-ended questions.

Several commissioners asked if the ECC was getting a student representative. Ms. Miles mentioned one applicant was not in the Village so was not eligible and only a handful of applications came in for the various commissions available to students. Commissioner Marron asked for when the application closed, Ms. Miles said initially it closed in August, but was pushed out to October. Commissioner Salman asked if the high schools are aware and Ms. Miles said that former Management Fellow Brian Kenney was in contact with the high schools about the program. Commissioner Marron asked if the application was closed, and Ms. Miles said she believed if applicants came in they would still be accepted. Commissioner Marron asked if the application was still up, and Ms. Miles said she would check to, and if she could take recommendations from commissioners.

Commissioner Getz asked about the Green Business Application if there was a pending application. Ms. Miles said there was one from January, and the park district recently had sent one in. Chairman Pelloso suggested tabling the discussion to next month, where also publicity and purpose of the program could be discussed. Commissioner Marron suggested tabling the three existing applications until after the revisions have been discussed.

Commissioner Salman discussed her desire to have levels in the Green Business program. Commissioner Mlade said the qualifications should be binary, and Commissioner Marron expressed concern in making the application too complex for businesses to apply. Commissioner Mlade expressed the lack of criteria in the application. Chairman Pelloso suggested looking at other villages for their programs, and not be as subjective as the current application. Commissioner Mlade asked how many businesses we have and suggested going back to those recognized businesses to ask what they are currently doing to see if the program has value.

The Commissioners discussed the Tivoli and the processes they did to get them recognized under the program. Commissioner Salman said need to recognize how smaller businesses can't do as much as a larger business like the hospital because of available resources.

Commissioner Mlade asked if they can talk prior to the meeting, and discussion was had around the open meetings act and the rules around it; discussions amongst commissioners in between meetings. Ms. Miles said she would talk to staff about the rules governing commissions.

There was discussion about the members who have not been present at a lot of meetings. Ms. Miles reminder the commissioners only the Mayor could remove commissioners.

Commissioner Mlade asked to Ms. Miles to re-distribute the Green Business revisions to the group and Ms. Miles said she would.

Chairman Pelloso reiterated the to-do items. Ms. Miles would redistribute the application and check into the student application. Commissioner Salman asked if when there was an agenda relevant, it would be helpful to have council representation.

Chairman Pelloso asked to make a motion to put items on the agenda for next month: Coordination with the Stormwater board on initiatives for the spring like the tree sale, and identifying locations for native pollinator plantings. Chairman Pelloso also suggested an agenda item for the "Future of the ECC" for next month's meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Chairman Pelloso asked for a motion to adjourn, Comm. Marron made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Mlade seconded that.

Meeting adjourned.