Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2023

Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order
The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee of the Barrington Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson Dan Goitein at 6:06 PM on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at Barrington Village Hall.

II. Roll Call
Upon roll being called the following answered present: Committee Members Jennifer Lucas, Jim McGrath (arrived 6:20 PM), Renee Blue, Janet Agnoletti, and Chairperson Dan Goitein. Committee Members Matt Hokanson and Chris Ordway were absent.

Also in attendance were Peter Gorr, IL Solar Energy Association; Fred Braun, Director of Public Works; and Mike Casper, Assistant Director of Public Works

III. Public Comment
None.

IV. Approval of Minutes
Minutes of the November 2, 2022 EAC Meeting were distributed for review.

Motion: A motion was duly made by Janet Agnoletti and seconded by Jennifer Lucas to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2022 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee. A voice vote was then called and the minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Introductions of Committee members and Village Staff were made by those present.

VI. Recap of Community Solar Meeting
In collaboration with Go Green Barrington, the Barrington Area Library held a community Going Solar meeting. Peter Gorr from the Illinois Solar Energy Association discussed going solar, from panels in homes to remote community solar organization subscriptions. The bottom line is that if residents are paying an electric bill, then they can go solar and save money. There are federal and state incentive programs that can be utilized, as well.
Jennifer Lucas asked that the Committee recommend to the Village Board that they promote going solar in Barrington through the weekly e-blast and other avenues – a link that could be used is: https://www.citizensutilityboard.org/solar-in-the-community/.

Motion: A motion was duly made by Jim McGrath and seconded by Renee Blue to recommend that the Village Board support solar projects through education and communication utilizing all of the Village's media outlets, in addition to allowing for regular article series, and/or a regular column in the Village's newsletter, e-blast, weekly social media blasts, etc. with links to more detailed information. A voice vote was then called and the minutes were unanimously approved.

VII. Groot Contract Discussion

Fred Braun provided an update regarding the current Groot contract including yard waste and electronic recycling and offered a comparison of fees to other municipalities and responded to clarifying questions regarding the agreement.

A recommendation was made regarding removing opt out options from Groot contract for apartments and commercial buildings

A recommendation was made regarding exploring options for year-round organics recycling (either survey and/or through negotiations with Groot), and to determine to what degree Groot would support Barrington's environmental efforts at community events

A recommendation was made regarding investigating what the Village's and School District's partnership looks like as it relates to the Groot contract.

VIII. Water Ambassador Program

The Illinois Section American Water Works Association (ISAWWA) Water Ambassador Program is an initiative created to elevate public perception, knowledge, and consumer education of the water industry. This program aims to accomplish these goals by presenting a new communication platform of educational and promotional content in a manner that is relevant, engaging, and consistent among participants. Participating members will access water education tools and content from the ISAWWA website and will communicate the content to their community through social media, web-site postings, bill inserts, and newsletters. Content will include video links, infographics, bill inserts, and information for social media postings. Based on the frequency and method of posts, annual awards (similar to Tree City USA) will be awarded, b

Motion: A motion was duly made by Dan Goitein and seconded by Jim McGrath to recommend to the Village Board support of the ISAWWA Water Ambassador Program and to support staff in any efforts needed to establish Barrington as a Water Ambassador. A voice vote was then called and the recommendation was unanimously approved.

IX. Other Business

Dan suggested that each committee member do some additional homework prior to the next meeting in order to better prepare for making recommendations to the Village Board.

- Jennifer Lucas and Jim McGrath will work on providing content for an educational campaign to be used
- Renee Blue will investigate additional options for organics recycling

- Janet Agnoletti will provide information and a formal recommendation to ban coal tar based sealants and asphalt driveway sealants containing Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and will provide some educational materials used in other communities.

A recommendation was made that the EAC be included in planning for National Night Out in order to incorporate green initiatives and provide public education.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is set for Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

X. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:50 PM.