Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2024
Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street

MINUTES:

I. Call to Order

Mike Casper called to order the regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) of the Barrington Board of Trustees at 6:05 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at Barrington Village Hall. Mike Casper informed members that the meeting is recorded only for minute purposes.

II. Roll Call

Upon being called, the following answers were given: Committee Members Chairperson Dan Goitein, Vice Chairperson Renee Blue, Jim McGrath, and Jennifer Lucas. Members not present: Chris Ordway, Kimberly Saunders, and Matt Hokanson

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 7, 2024, were distributed for review.

Motion: Dan Goitein duly made a motion, and Jennifer Lucas seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee's February 21, 2024, meeting. A voice vote was then called, and the minutes were approved. Kimberly Saunders abstained.

V. Large Scale Projects

The Development Services Department will be working to require an additional narrative submittal regarding environmental considerations for Planned Development projects for EAC review. Then, this narrative information and concept renderings can be provided to the EAC during the Staff review period for these projects moving forward, and any comments or questions the EAC may have relative to that information can be shared back with the Developer to provide guidance and recommendations which will help to shape future development projects. These large-scale projects can be both residential and commercial.

Jim McGrath submitted a list of building permit considerations. See the attached list.

Jennifer Lucas submitted a list of potential questions for developers, with input from Karen Daulton Lange, chair of the Flint Creek Spring Creek Watersheds Partnership. See the attached list.

Dan Goitein recommended referencing the best practices from Greenest Region Compact for building policies and recommendations.

It was recommended that incentives could be offered for some of these recommendations or become requirements.

VI. Tree City USA.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources co-administers the Tree City USA program with the Arbor Day Foundation. Tree City USA and Tree City USA Growth Awards are nationwide programs that recognize communities for their urban forestry efforts and serve as technical assistance vehicles for the state. Tree City USA provides the basis for urban forestry management. Along with the Growth Award, which encourages program expansion and special initiatives, these programs are a great asset for the initiation, development, and growth of local urban and community forestry programs. Tree City USA program outreach assists communities with proper urban and community forestry management. For decades, TCU communities had been advised to diversify their urban forest, develop tree inventories/management plans, and implement tree care ordinances - all urban forestry management actions that helped ready a community for major insect and disease infestations. By being engaged in urban forest management and participating in the Illinois TCU program, municipalities save well over a billion dollars just through species diversity and invasive species readiness. Being engaged in urban forestry management helps municipalities more cost-effectively manage their tree resources and provide a safe environment for their citizens.

- Removed 29 dead, dying or hazardous trees.
- Planted 64 parkway trees.
- Trimmed 500 parkway trees.
- Employees continue to maintain new and existing plants within our beautification projects and throughout our community, including installing & filling gator bags, tree trimming, installation and maintenance of 200 hanging summer and winter baskets and numerous planters and planting beds.
- Planted 400 new plants around our Barrington Village Center located in our downtown.
- Worked with Avant-Gardenscapes to design, prepare, install and maintain (30) decorative planters at our Train Station, Gazebo and Downtown area within our Central Business District. Spring, summer, fall & winter displays were represented.
- Village crews went out twice this year for our spring & fall curb-side chipping program.
- Met with residents to answer questions regarding the health of their trees, both publicly and privately owned.
- Sponsored annual Arbor Day event at 8 public elementary schools. We had the Garden Club of Barrington do presentations at the schools for the tree saplings that were passed out to all the 4th graders. We also planted a tree at one of the schools and had the kids and the principle help backfill the hole.
- Reviewed plans concerning forestry issues, including all proposed public utility projects, plus new development and infrastructure rehabilitation within the Village of Barrington.

VII. Growth Award.

The Growth Award is a companion to the Tree City USA recognition award. Your community can achieve a Tree City USA Growth Award if it qualifies as a Tree City USA for at least the second consecutive year and completes activities in eligible categories totaling ten or more points. There are four categories where points can be earned:

- Education and Public Relations
- Partnerships
- Planning and Management
- Tree Planting and Maintenance

This award provides motivation for communities to go above and beyond the basic elements of a local municipal forestry program to create a highly functioning local forest management program.

- Tree Inventory
- Planting-to-Removal Ratio
- Utility Tree Care
- Tree Debris Recycling
- Land Stewardship
- Youth Education

VIII. Hosting Sorting Stations.

Jennifer Lucas reported on the EAC, which was helped by volunteers who used Mindful Waste bins to host sorting stations for the Art Fest and National Night Out. She had three items for consideration for next year's events.

- The EAC would like to create trash (landfill) and recycle labels and tape them on the village's cans.
- The EAC would like to use the recycle dumpster at the Public Works garage to recycle material from the events. The recycle dumpsters at the events appeared to be used as trash dumpsters.
- The EAC would like more help with volunteer recruitment.

It was recommended that the village purchase some portable clear recycling containers and bags from Clearstream Recycling Systems for future events.

IX. Other Business.

- 180 Lead Service Lines have been replaced, 20 more possible this year, and 480 remain.
- The website has been updated for what batteries can be accepted for recycling.
- Village newsletters/Educational Material can now be sent to both me and Becky Wyskochil at rwyskochil@barrington-il.gov
- Thanks again, Jennifer, for your help with the Tree Brochure.

X. Adjournment.

- A motion was made by Dan Goitein and seconded by Jennifer Lucas to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:48 p.m. A voice vote was then called, and the meeting was adjourned.

The Environmental Advisory Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM.