

MINUTES

Village of La Grange Environmental Quality Commission

53 South La Grange Road
Lower Level Conference Room
La Grange, IL 60525

Thursday, February 13, 2020 — 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Village of La Grange Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) was held on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at the Village Hall and was called to order by Commission Chair Rose Naseef at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Baise, Braun, Bryant (arrived late), Christianson, May (arrived late), Naseef, Peterson, Robison, Simak, Zarnowiecki

Absent: Davies, Sheldon

8 of 12 members constitutes a quorum.

ALSO PRESENT: Andrianna Peterson, Village Manager; David McCarty, Village Trustee

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the January 9, 2020 minutes and Commissioner Braun seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

3. BUSINESS AT HAND

A. Appointment of Vice-Chair – Chair Naseef announced the appointment of Commissioner Christianson as Vice-Chair. The Commission also agreed to designate Commissioner Bryant as Secretary.

B. Annual Report – Commissioners expressed support for the draft of the 2019 annual report to the Village Board. Commissioner Peterson added that she attended Peace Camp in 2019 to educate students on proper recycling. Chair Naseef stated that she will add that to the list of EQC projects and accomplishments. Commissioner Bryant moved to submit the report to the board with the amended item. Commissioner Christianson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Goals for 2020 – Commissioners identified goals they would like the EQC to address in 2020 and volunteered to work on the following items:

- **Protection of Water (Zarnowiecki)** – Research and make recommendations related to water issues, including coal tar sealants, strategies to reduce chloride contamination, green infrastructure, and downspout disconnection programs
- **Waste and Recycling (Baise, Bryant, Naseef)** – Discourage single-use, nonrecyclable items in the community; educate residents on how to recycle, compost, and dispose of items properly; explain how waste reduction benefits health and the environment; reduce waste at local events; host special collection

programs/activities

- **Economic Development (Peterson, Simak, Zarnowiecki)** – Recognize and support businesses who practice sustainability; provide support to businesses seeking to reduce waste
- **Transit/Mobility (Baise, Robison)** – Enhance and expand designated bike paths
- **Climate (Braun, Christianson, May)** – Create a Climate Action Plan for La Grange, which will include actions residents and the village can take to reduce greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions; Create measurable short and long term goals for reducing ghg emissions; Assist village staff in measuring ghg emissions; Revise the 0-18-18 ordinance governing the purpose and powers of the EQC to reflect changing climate and environmental conditions (Bryant)
- **Land (Braun)** – Draft a heritage tree ordinance
- **Education/Outreach (Naseef, Peterson)** – Provide information about environmental initiatives and events to community members, including schools; Provide resources to help residents become more sustainable by hosting workshops, attending events, and providing information on website/in newsletters; Support and cooperate in sponsoring public events and programs devoted to an improved village and community environment, including Earth Day Fair, Native Plant tour, Pumpkin Smash, Holiday Light recycling.
- **Leadership (Bryant, Naseef)** – Attend a Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meeting at least once a year; Communicate EQC accomplishments; Advise Village Board of environmental issues raised by budget adoptions of village expenditures, such as the waste hauling contract, village code provisions, and public works; Provide input on the Comprehensive Plan

- C. Earth Day Fair – Commissioners discussed the benefits and costs of hosting the proposed Earth Day Fair at the Village Hall. Trustee McCarty informed the EQC that the drafted letter to the board requesting use of Village Hall would also have to include a request for funds of less than \$5,000 to operate the building during the event. Commissioners revisited the idea of asking the Park District of La Grange about the availability of a park for the event. Village Manager Peterson stated that she will contact the Park District to inquire about partnering to host the fair.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Waste hauling RFP – Village Manager Peterson reported the village received bids from 3 haulers and that the Village is currently evaluating its options. Due to the decreasing value of recyclables, prices for hauling have increased over the past year.
- B. Greenest Region Compact (GRC) framework – Commissioners discussed the best way to update progress on GRC goals. Village Manager Peterson suggested contacting the Metropolitan Mayor Caucus for information about how other communities approach this task. Commissioners agreed that continued collaboration with community organizations will help provide data. EQC will work on establishing liaisons to communicate with specific community organizations. EQC also will consider forming a subcommittee responsible for updating progress on GRC goals.

- C. Holiday Light Recycling – Village Manager Peterson reported that the Village collected 1,243 pounds of lights during the Nov-Jan collection period.
 - D. Edgewood Avenue – Village Manager Peterson stated that the EQC’s January 2020 report was submitted to the Village Board. Although funding is still needed to complete the reconstruction project, the Village will make a decision at the end of February or the beginning of March on which options to pursue.
 - E. Comprehensive Plan – Village Manager Peterson stated that the Village will pursue a grant to help fund the creation of a new comprehensive plan. She expects the early stages of planning will begin toward the middle of 2020 and she described the process for EQC commissioners.
5. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Commissioner Zarnowiecki asked if the EQC would like him to schedule a speaker for the March EQC meeting. The presentation would address Stormwater Best Management Practices, specifically regarding chloride contamination. Commissioners expressed interest, so Village Manager Peterson will include the presentation in next month’s agenda.
 - B. Commissioner Braun reported that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is designing an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready Program. The objective of the project is to create an EV Ready Checklist and an EV Ready Buying Decision Guide for municipalities by May 2020. She will provide an update of the program then.
 - C. Commissioner May reported that both of the Metra train stations in La Grange have windows with single panes, which are a concern because of the heated and cooled air that escapes through them. Village Manager Peterson stated that there wasn’t enough money to replace the windows during the last renovation. She stated that, if the EQC identifies grants to fund window replacement, the Village will consider applying for them.

6. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 7:00pm

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bryant moved for adjournment, seconded by Commissioner Christianson. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:07p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Naseef
Chair, Environmental Quality Commission