

## MINUTES

Village of La Grange Environmental Quality Commission

SPECIAL MEETING  
53 South La Grange Road  
La Grange, IL 60525

MEETING CONDUCTED BY TELEPHONE DUE TO COVID-19

Thursday, September 10, 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 by phone on Thursday, September 10, 2020 and called to order by Chair Rose Naseef at 7:10p.m.

Present: Braun, Bryant, Christianson, May, Naseef, Peterson, Robison

Absent: Baise, Robison, Sheldon, Simak, Zarnowiecki

6 of 11 members constitutes a quorum.

ALSO PRESENT on the phone call: Andrianna Peterson, Village Manager; Charity Jones, Director of Community Development

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Bryant moved to approve the August 13, 2020 meeting minutes and Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. All commissioners present approved the motion by roll call vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Village Manager Peterson reported that no public comments were received.

4. BUSINESS AT HAND

A. Updates on EQC 2020 goals

B. Waste and Recycling

- The EQC will again partner with the La Grange Park Sustainability Commission to host the Pumpkin Smash composting event on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The two villages will also host holiday light recycling collections again this year.
- Due to lack of an available space, collection of small scrap metals, including yard sign stakes, is not possible this year.
- Chair Naseef inquired about the availability of historical waste hauling data. Village Manager Peterson stated that, in addition to the yearly totals received from Republic, the Village has documents with monthly totals provided by the West Cook Solid Waste Agency. The EQC is welcome to review this information as desired.

Economic Development

- Commissioners decided that the best way to recognize and support businesses that practice and promote sustainability (Greenest Region Goal ED7) is to give a one-

time award rather than maintain an on-going certification program. This could be similar to La Grange Park’s Green Spotlight Award. Progress toward this goal is currently limited due to challenges from COVID-19 that business are facing.

#### Climate

- Commissioner May explained the carbon fee and dividend referendum question that will be on the upcoming ballot and answered questions from commissioners, including how dividends might be distributed.
- Commissioners continued to examine how to create a climate action plan: doing an inventory, setting a target, implementing policies. Village Manger Peterson offered to gather information from police and fire departments, if needed. If obtaining reliable information from Nicor, ComEd, and other sources is not possible, the EQC’s focus should shift to increasing practices and technologies that reduce emissions (i.e. reducing waste; increasing energy efficiency; and encouraging no-idle policies, renewable energy, public transportation, biking).

#### Land

- Commissioner Braun reported on the multiple methods and options in addressing a heritage tree ordinance. Commissioners May and Christianson volunteered to help. Village Manager Peterson clarified the process for making a recommendation to the Village Board.
- Village Manager Peterson reported on the current status of the downtown streetscape redesign, which is still a draft.

#### Education and Outreach

- Chair Naseef reported on various local and regional activities that have attempted to educate the public on environmental initiatives and events, including posters and videos. Additional discussion ensued regarding an EQC website presence.

#### Leadership

- Chair Naseef outlined the need to make other La Grange commissions aware of EQC activities and ideas by attending select meetings, especially those involving the Comprehensive Plan.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

None

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Village Manager Peterson updated the EQC on financial issues facing the Village, explained various options for future revenue, and conveyed the appreciation of La Grange businesses for the community support.

B. Commissioners discussed local environmental developments, including the recent announcement that Congress Park, Forest Road, Ogden Avenue, and Park Junior High schools will have solar panels installed on their rooftops. White Pine Renewables will pay for the cost of installing and maintaining the solar panels. Also noted was the new

solar powered crosswalk sign at Brainard Avenue and 48<sup>th</sup> Street and the Village's purchase of a Ford Fusion hybrid vehicle.

6. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 7:00pm

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Braun moved for adjournment, seconded by Commissioner May. All commissioners present approved the motion by roll call vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Bryant  
Secretary, Environmental Quality Commission