

ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, January 7, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.

Village of Niles Administration Building
1000 Civic Center Drive
Council Chambers

Members Present: Rosemary Palicki - Chair, Tony Dati, Chris Zalinski

Also present: Hadley Skeffington-Vos – staff liaison

Absent: Bob Johnson

Meeting started at 5:04pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve and minutes and seconded. Unanimous approval.

II. New Business

Budget Items for FY15/16

Hadley informed the committee that the following items were currently requested in the budget:

- EPC training \$500
- Air Dryers \$2,000 (increase to \$4,500)
- Green Award \$250
- Arbor Day Ceremony \$250
- 4th of July \$500 (decided to add another \$200)
- FON inserts \$5,108
- Water Contest \$500 (decided to redistribute to Energy Efficiency Campaign)

Rosemary asked the committee members for additional budget requests. Chris mentioned the Finance Director would not approve of the proposed water efficiency contest. There were numerous reasons why the program couldn't work as discussed in the previous meeting. Instead of putting in a water contest for \$500, the EPC will ask for \$500 for an energy efficiency contest of sorts. The EPC will work to fine tune a program that promotes education and energy efficiency. The committee discussed a raffle at the Fourth of July with either rain barrels or LED light bulbs. Or instead of a raffle, play a game and get a prize of a light bulb, then have constellation prize of a piece of candy. Chris can put an educational board together about LED lights. The committee will budget \$200 more for Fourth of July, still hand something out like magnets and get banners. We'll have to ask the Park District for a location other than under the tent.

Hadley received information about the air dryers from Facilities and shared that with the committee. Hadley will ask the Facilities Manager about the cost of labor for Public Services to do it versus contracted out. The committee thought about spreading this out over 4 or 5 years.

Textile Recycling

Rosemary was approached by a member of the Senior Center about textile and clothing recycling. Rosemary reached out to SWANCC. SWANCC has not pursued it because there are so many non-profits and retail stores that already provide the service. The committee agreed that the service is

well provided for in the private and non-profit sector, and the committee would not pursue it.

Green Business Award Promotion

Last year was the first year for the Green Business Award program and there were no applicants. Hadley provided the program guidelines and application for the committee to review, make recommendations on, and then generate ideas for promotion.

Rosemary suggested focusing on one or two subject areas on year, then a different two categories the next year, etc. (cycle through them). She always wanted to see more narrative. Tony liked the idea of making each category its own category and separate award, so businesses could apply for just one category or more if they wanted. Then the application is only two pages. The committee liked Rosemary's idea of a different award each year. Limit the responses on the application to a certain time frame, like the last 5 years and 500 words. Then add a catch-all question of "List any innovative or environmentally friendly practice you've implemented in the last 5 years." The committee agreed to the schedule:

Year 1- Waste Reduction & Recycling

Year 2- Water Conservation & Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Year 3- Energy Conservation

Year 4- Public Education & Awareness

Year 5- Transportation

For promotion, the committee will target some businesses that we're aware of already following environmentally friendly practices. Hadley will promote in the newsletter, Chamber e-blast and Business after Hours, and through Community Development's outreach to businesses. It is on the Village website.

III. Open Discussion

Hadley reminded the committee that Arbor Day is Friday April 24th this year. Tony will contact a nursery about donating a tree this year. We've already been to Mark Twain and Culver. Hadley will generate a list of schools in Niles for the next meeting to choose from.

Rosemary mentioned the time spent on the Tree Ordinance. Now the committee needs a purpose that is always on the table, something that guides the committee (like a community garden). Rosemary wanted the committee to think about this for the next meeting. Other ideas that were mentioned were recycling, private tree inventory/survey, forestry, and water conservation.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be Wednesday February 4th at 5:00pm.

Meeting concluded at 6:21pm. Unanimous vote to adjourn.