

MINUTES
Ad Hoc Clean Air Counts Advisory Committee
June 30, 2008
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

I. Call to Order

Chair Hankins began the meeting at 7:03 p.m. on June 30, 2008, at the Municipal Complex in Crystal Lake.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following Committee members: Pat Dieckhoff, Linda Gaska, Kim Hankins, Elizabeth Puchmelter, Lehn Shepherd, and Pauline Walker. Steve Fuller was absent. Also present were John Kavalunas and Brad Mitchell, Assistant to the City Manager.

III. Public Comment

There was no one in the public who wished to speak.

IV. Approval of Minutes of the June 2, 2008 Regular Meeting

Member Shepherd moved to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2008 regular meeting. Member Gaska seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

V. Clean Air Counts Participation Status

a. Newsletter Articles

City staff Mitchell stated that the deadline for the August/September City Letter article submission is Monday, July 7, 2008. Chair Hankins suggested holding off on the topic of idling. Member Shepherd suggested writing about mowing tips and Member Gaska suggested having information on business involvement. Member Puchmelter suggested adding information on yard management techniques. Chair Hankins will follow-up with Member Fuller on writing the article. Member Dieckhoff asked to include information on the Green Guide. City staff Mitchell will make sure information on the green guide is included in the City newsletter. Chair Hankins asked whether residents could opt out of the hard copy of the newsletter. City staff Mitchell stated that it would be difficult to track, but he will bring this idea to City staff. Also it was suggested to include language on the newsletter encouraging residents to recycle the newsletter.

- **Chair Hankins will follow-up with Member Fuller about submitting an article for the August/September newsletter. The deadline for the submission is Monday, July 7, 2008.**
- **City staff Mitchell will include information about the Green Guide in the upcoming newsletter.**
- **City staff Mitchell will bring the idea of opting out of the hard copy of the City newsletter to City staff.**
- **City staff Mitchell will see about having language included on the newsletter encouraging residents to recycle the newsletter.**

b. Lawncare Buyback/Gas Can Replacement Program

Member Puchmelter stated that she spoke with Eve Pytel and was informed that there is no funding available for lawncare events and that there is no timeline when funding would become available again. Member Puchmelter stated that Eve Pytel suggested that the Committee could go for self funding to hold such an event and can coordinate the event with a event held at McHenry County College. Member Walker asked what type of gas cans are needed to be purchased. Member Puchmelter stated that the cans would be \$4.99 from Ace and they have a different type of cap that would meet 2009 EPA regulations. Member Puchmelter also stated that a company by the name of Neupon would give \$100 towards the purchase of a battery or electric mower in exchange for an old mower. Chair Hankins suggested that more education and public relations need to be done prior to hosting this event. Chair Hankins also suggested doing more research on funding options. Member Dieckhoff stated that the County would probably be hosting a household hazardous waste collection in Spring 2009 and that she would keep the Committee up-to-date on this event. The Committee agreed to begin the education process and to pursue hosting this event in Spring 2009.

- **Member Puchmelter will get more information on the gas cans.**
- **Chair Hankins will look into funding options.**
- **Member Dieckhoff will keep the Committee updated on the status of a possible household hazardous waste collection by the County.**

c. Website

Member Shepherd stated that he received no comments from the Committee regarding the draft website and that he forwarded the draft website to City staff Mitchell for the City's review. City staff Mitchell stated that the draft website was forwarded to the City Council for their review prior to being placed on the City's website. City staff Mitchell will follow-up on the status of the website.

- **City staff Mitchell will follow-up on the status of the draft website.**

d. Bicycle Path Program

Member Walker stated that Member Fuller and herself are planning to meet with representatives from the City of Elgin this summer regarding their bicycle path program. John Kavalunas stated that there was an article on Homewood's bicycle path program discussing how Homewood and the Chicagoland Bicycle Foundation coordinated bike plans. Chair Hankins recommended that Member Walker contact the Chicagoland Bicycle Foundation to get more information and to invite a representative to come to a Committee meeting. Member Puchmelter stated that Member Gaska and herself were at a conference in Schaumburg and met a City Councilmember from Elgin. City staff Mitchell stated that on the recommendation of a City Councilmember, as well as this Committee, that he is working with City planning staff to develop a bicycle path map for Crystal Lake.

- **Members Fuller and Walker will meet with representatives from the City of Elgin regarding their bicycle path program.**
- **Member Walker will contact the Chicagoland Bicycle Foundation.**

- **City staff Mitchell will work with Planning staff to create a bicycle path map for Crystal Lake.**

e. Farmers' Market

Member Walker stated that the response was good at the Farmers' Market. Member Walker stated that visitors asked for a list of other Farmers' Markets. The Committee will put together a list of area Farmers' Markets. Member Gaska stated that Jennifer Benson was in charge of Elgin's Farmers' Market. The Committee reviewed the volunteer schedule for the Farmers' Market. Member Walker stated that she is still working on ordering the t-shirts and they should be around \$10. Member Dieckhoff requested that the shirts be made of organic material. The Committee agreed the shirts state: Clean Air Counts Makes a Visible Difference in Crystal Lake. Member Gaska suggested checking into Fish Face, a green business in Woodstock. Member Walker would like to get a mower to show at the Farmers' Market.

- **The Committee will put together a list of area Farmers' Markets.**
- **Member Walker will order Committee t-shirts.**

f. Idling

Member Shepherd asked if the City has received any response from Metra regarding the letter sent to Metra requesting that they reduce the idling of their trains. City staff Mitchell distributed a response letter sent by Metra. Member Shepherd stated he would like to send another letter with some follow-up questions. He will get a draft letter to City staff Mitchell for City staff review. The Committee discussed putting up idling signs at schools, the Library, and other places in Crystal Lake. Chair Hankins suggested starting with local before teaming up with other organizations. Member Shepherd suggested putting up no-idling signs at the Downtown Metra lot. Member Dieckhoff suggested putting no-idling signs in Downtown Crystal Lake. City staff Mitchell will follow-up with City staff regarding this possibility. City staff Mitchell reported that the City's Police Department sent a memo to their staff stating not to idle their cars when it is not necessary in efforts to conserve fuel. City staff Mitchell also stated he is still working a idling policy for all City departments.

- **Member Shepherd will draft a response back to Metra regarding idling their trains.**
- **City staff Mitchell will follow-up with City staff about no-idling signs at the Downtown Metra station and in Downtown Crystal Lake.**
- **City staff Mitchell is working on a no-idling policy for City departments.**

g. Participation at Johnny Appleseed Festival

Member Dieckhoff discussed the kids activity book Adventures of Breathe Easy Man. The Committee discussed possible kid activities to have at the Johnny Appleseed Festival. Chair Hankins suggested the Committee think about other activities to have at the table. City staff Mitchell will follow-up with Diana Kenney about having a spot at the Johnny Appleseed Festival.

- **Member Dieckhoff will seek permission to distribute the Adventures of Breathe Easy Man.**
- **The Committee will think about other activities to host at the table.**
- **City staff Mitchell will follow-up with Diana Kenney about the Committee having a spot at the Johnny Appleseed Festival.**

h. Participation with other summer events

Chair Hankins asked the Committee to think about other summer events that the Clean Air Counts Committee could participate in.

i. Other media opportunities

Chair Hankins asked the Committee to think about any media opportunities that are available.

VI. Open Discussion

Member Gaska stated that Eve Pytel came to the Crystal Lake Chamber's Green Business Task Force meeting to provide information on Clean Air Counts. Member Gaska stated that she talked with Eve Pytel on ways to involve businesses, such as mention Chamber's role; reach out to non-chamber member businesses, including big chains; and draft a letter recognizing businesses on their green efforts. Member Walker asked what the Committee would want big chains to do. Member Gaska stated that they can be a sponsor for a day contributing 20% of all sales. Member Dieckhoff suggested encouraging big chains do an energy audit through Clean Air Counts. Member Walker stated that someone should contact Pauly Toyota about all the energy they wasting with all the lights that are on during the nighttime hours. Member Gaska passed around a GANTT Chart that she created which is a timeline of achieving goals to involve businesses. Chair Hankins reminded the Committee that the focus should still be on achieving bronze level but encourage business involvement in that process. Member Walker suggested putting a green business in the City's newsletter. Chair Hankins stated that before doing that the Committee should come up with standards for determining green businesses. Member Dieckhoff suggested focusing on something that a business does green. Chair Hankins stated that the Committee could begin with recognizing a dry cleaning business which has green operations as a model for recognizing green businesses. Member Puchmelter inquired about whether the audit done by the McHenry County Defenders for municipalities could be done for businesses. Member Gaska will look into this and get a copy of the audit. Chair Hankins suggested that the Committee take a look at the Clean Air Counts Audit. Member Gaska stated that she will look at the Clean Air Counts certification levels and line up goals for involving businesses and look to create a green business list.

VII. Next Meeting Date

The Committee discussed the next meeting dates. The Committee agreed to meet on August 4, 2008, September 8, 2008 and October 6, 2008.

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, Member Gaska moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Member Shepherd seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.