

**MINUTES**  
**Ad Hoc Clean Air Counts Advisory Committee**  
**August 4, 2008**  
**Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Hankins began the meeting at 7:01 p.m. on August 4, 2008, at the Municipal Complex in Crystal Lake.

**II. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following Committee members: Pat Dieckhoff, Steve Fuller, Linda Gaska, Kim Hankins, Elizabeth Puchmelter, Lehn Shepherd, and Pauline Walker. Also present were Larry O'Meary, Joe Lewis and Brad Mitchell, Assistant to the City Manager.

**III. Public Comment**

Mr. Joe Lewis, of Cary, stated that the plans for the Rakow Road reconstruction project will make the road inaccessible for bicyclists. Mr. Lewis wanted to make the Committee aware of this and suggested that the Committee contact the County regarding the project to see if bike lanes can be included. Also Mr. Lewis stated that he would help provide locations of bike paths in Crystal Lake for a bike path map.

**IV. Approval of Minutes of the June 30, 2008 Regular Meeting**

Member Shepherd moved to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2008 regular meeting. Member Dieckhoff 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 latest article submitted by the Committee has been included in the August/September newsletter. Member Fuller stated that the focus for the next newsletter article would be idling. The Committee discussed other topics that could also be discussed in the next newsletter and agreed on the topics of winter preparation, leaf burning and energy efficiency facts. City staff Mitchell stated that the deadline for the October/November newsletter would be in early September. Member Walker also stated that for next spring a topic for the newsletter could be different kinds of mowers.

- **Member Fuller will prepare the next newsletter article to include information on idling, winter preparation, leaf burning, and energy efficiency facts.**

**b. Lawncare Buyback/Gas Can Replacement Program**

Member Puchmelter stated that she contacted ACE again and received some more information of the availability of the gas cans. Member Puchmelter also stated that the APA website has a proposed regulation on gas cans. Member Shepherd stated that he could search his law programs for the regulation. Chair Hankins suggested that Eve Pytel be contacted to determine when funding for this type of event will be available. Member Puchmelter will contact Eve Pytel to get more information. Member Shepherd

stated that he had a sign-up sheet at the Farmers' Market regarding a lawnmower buyback program and that there was interest in such a program. Member Shepherd will have this sign-up sheet available at the Johnny Appleseed Festival also.

- **Member Puchmelter will check with ACE again on the availability of the gas cans.**
- **Member Puchmelter and Member Shepherd will contact Eve Pytel to get more information on funding.**

**c. Website**

Member Shepherd stated that the website is active and that he would like to get more links up on the website. Chair Hankins stated that the Committee should bring website links to future Committee meetings for Member Shepherd to post on the website.

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

**d. Bicycle Path Program**

Member Fuller stated that Member Walker, Member Dieckhoff, and he met with members of the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation to discuss a bike path plan for the City of Crystal Lake. They rode around the City on bikes identifying the current bike paths and other possible ideas for a bike path plan. Member Fuller stated that they found out after the meeting that this organization is an advocacy consultant group and that there would be a cost of between \$20,000 and \$40,000 to assist in creating a bike path plan for Crystal Lake. Member Fuller stated that the Committee should instead meet with City staff to come up with a bike path plan and that the Committee has a lot of the resources needed for such a plan and would be willing to contribute to developing a bike path plan. Member Dieckhoff asked City staff Mitchell to set-up a meeting with City staff to discuss creating a plan. City staff Mitchell stated that he will set-up a meeting with City staff. Mr. Lewis stated that when considering a bike path plan to consider street sweeping the on-road bike lanes and suggested looking at Madison, Wisconsin for more ideas for a bike path plan. Mr. Lewis also suggested the Committee getting a copy of Schaumburg's bike path map. Mr. O'Meary suggested researching Portland, Oregon because they have an active bike program. Chair Hankins asked that Committee members forward questions to City staff Mitchell regarding a bike path plan before the meeting so that City staff can prepare for the meeting.

- **City staff Mitchell will set-up a meeting with City staff to discuss a bicycle path plan.**
- **Committee members will forward questions for City staff to City staff Mitchell prior to the meeting.**

**e. Farmers' Market**

The Committee discussed the upcoming schedule for the Farmers' Market. The schedule is:

- August 16<sup>th</sup> – energy bike
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> – idling
- September 6<sup>th</sup> – wildflower/apple orchards

September 13<sup>th</sup> – groundwater/water conservation display  
September 20<sup>th</sup> – public transportation

Chair Hankins suggested holding off on scheduling for October. Member Gaska stated that she received a lot of positive feedback at the Farmers' Market from vendors about the Committee being there on that first Saturday and distributing the totes. More customers now bring their own totes to the Farmers' Market. Member Walker distributed the Clean Air Counts shirts that she ordered for the Committee. Each Committee member owes \$23.70 to Member Walker for the t-shirts. Member Walker stated that the t-shirt were made at Think Ink and are made of all organic material.

- **Committee members will prepare for the Farmers' Market.**

#### **f. Idling**

Mr. O'Meary stated that he talked with the superintendent of District 155 and plans to meet with Ron Miller this week regarding putting idling signs at the schools. Mr. O'Meary feels that the school districts will be ok with the Committee moving forward with a no idling campaign. Member Dieckhoff stated that the Committee should also work on getting no idling signs up at City sites such as the Downtown Train Depot. Member Dieckhoff stated that direct information on no idling should be available on the Committee's webpage. Member Puchmelter stated that the Committee needs to think about how to communicate no idling to the general public. Member Fuller stated that there are examples of no idling signs on the Clean Air Counts website.

- **Member Fuller and Mr. Larry O'Meary will continue to contact schools about a no idling campaign.**
- **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 will continue to work on a no-idling policy for City departments.**

#### **g. Participation at Johnny Appleseed Festival**

City staff Mitchell stated that rules for having a booth at the Johnny Appleseed Festival. City staff Mitchell will send in the required application and certificate of insurance. City staff Mitchell also stated that the City has a backdrop that the Committee could possibly use at the booth. Member Dieckhoff stated that she contacted the Partners for Clean Air about having Breathe Easy Man make an appearance at the Johnny Appleseed Festival and is awaiting a call back. Member Dieckhoff stated that the Committee could hand out the Breathe Easy Man books at the festival. Member Dieckhoff will request 500 Breathe Easy Man books. Chair Hankins stated that she will do face painting for the kids at the booth. Chair Hankins stated there will be a sign-up sheet to work the booth at the next meeting.

- **Member Dieckhoff is awaiting a response to her request for Breathe Easy Man.**
- **Member Dieckhoff will request 500 Breathe Easy Man books to be distributed at the festival.**

- **City staff Mitchell will send in the application and get the certificate of insurance.**

#### **h. Business Development**

Member Gaska distributed a Gantt chart that she prepared. Member Gaska stated that she still has to determine which goals line up with Clean Air Counts initiatives. Member Gaska also emailed Eve Pytel to get a contact for restaurants and is trying to get a hold of the Elgin City Council member. Member Gaska asked that everyone bring their thoughts about the Gantt chart to the next Committee meeting. Member Dieckhoff asked if there are certificates for businesses through Clean Air Counts. Member Gaska stated that Clean Air Counts has their own audit and the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce has their own audit. Member Dieckhoff asked is there is any way to combine the two audits. Member Gaska stated that she attempted to get a copy of the Chamber's audit to help the Committee understand the difference between the two audits, but could not because she is not a Chamber member. City staff Mitchell stated that he will inquire about getting a copy of the Chamber's audit.

- **Committee members will review the Gantt chart and bring their thoughts to the next Committee meeting.**
- **Member Gaska will work on lining up goals with Clean Air Counts initiatives.**
- **City staff Mitchell will contact the Chamber of Commerce about getting a copy of their green business audit.**

#### **VI. Open Discussion**

Members Fuller and Walker discussed the idea of hosting a fundraiser to raise money for the Committee to put towards Clean Air Counts initiatives. Their idea is to host a harvest sustainability dinner in fall 2009 and they could begin planning in January. The dinner would include food grown locally and attendees would have to buy tickets for the dinner. Possible sites include the Lakeside Center or 1776. There would be music and other activities at the dinner. Member Shepherd suggested a possible silent auction. Member Fuller asked if the Committee could host such a fundraiser. City staff Mitchell stated that he will check with City staff on the possibility for hosting a fundraiser.

City staff Mitchell updated the Committee on the progress of creating a bike path map for the City of Crystal Lake.

#### **VII. Next Meeting Date**

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

#### **VIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Member Dieckhoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Member Shepherd seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.