

**MINUTES**  
**Ad Hoc Clean Air Counts Advisory Committee**  
**September 15, 2008**  
**Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Hankins began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 15, 2008, at the Municipal Complex in Crystal Lake.

**II. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following Committee members: Pat Dieckhoff, Kim Hankins, Lehn Shepherd, and Pauline Walker. Member Elizabeth Puchmelter arrived later in the meeting. Members Steve Fuller and Linda Gaska were absent. Also present were Larry O'Meara, Joe Lewis, Eberhard Veit and Brad Mitchell, Assistant to the City Manager.

**III. Public Comment**

Mr. Eberhard Veit, of Crystal Lake, introduced himself. Mr. Veit stated that he is bicyclist and would like to contribute to improving bicycle accessibility throughout Crystal Lake.

**IV. Approval of Minutes of the August 4, 2008 Regular Meeting**

Member Shepherd moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2008 regular meeting. Member Walker seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

**V. Clean Air Counts Participation Status**

City staff Mitchell distributed the draft application for Bronze Level Status. Members of the Committee were satisfied with the application. Member Shepherd moved to approve the submittal of the application for Bronze Level Status for the Clean Air Counts Campaign. Member Dieckhoff seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

**a. Newsletter Articles**

City staff Mitchell stated that the next newsletter article needs to be completed within the next few days. Member Dieckhoff stated that Member Fuller wouldn't be able to do this newsletter article. City staff Mitchell stated that he would put information together for the newsletter. The Committee discussed the following topics to be included in the newsletter: idling signs at Downtown Train Station; open burning; *Green Guide*; Farmers' Market recap; and recycling CFLs at The Home Depot and Ace Hardware. Member Dieckhoff stated that she would email City staff Mitchell a summary on the *Green Guide*.

- **City staff Mitchell will write an article for the newsletter.**
- **Member Dieckhoff will send City staff Mitchell a summary of the *Green Guide*.**

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

Member Dieckhoff asked the Committee if the gas can sold at ACE was the right gas can to promote. Member Dieckhoff stated that the salesperson at ACE said that the cans

sold there would not keep the gas fumes from escaping. Member Puchmelter stated that she would check with ACE to get the right can. Member Shepherd asked if there was any more interest in hosting a lawn mower replacement program. The Committee will continue to look into this program.

- **Member Puchmelter will check with ACE to get the right gas can.**

#### **c. Website**

Member Shepherd stated that he would like to include information on the upcoming Johnny Appleseed Festival on the events page. Member Shepherd will email information to City staff Mitchell. Member Walker asked if the Committee could find out how many have visited the website. City staff Mitchell stated that he will look into a possible page counter being added.

- **Member Shepherd will send City staff Mitchell information on the Johnny Appleseed Festival for the events page.**
- **City staff Mitchell will look into having a page counter added to the website.**

#### **d. Bicycle Path Program**

Member Walker stated that there have been no additional updates since the meeting with City staff. Member Dieckhoff stated that the Committee should be advocates for a bicycle path program and should come up with priorities to suggest to the City. The Committee was in favor of this idea. Member Dieckhoff suggested drafting a letter to the City Council expressing support for the bicycle path projects which City staff Erik Morimoto, Assistant City Engineer, and Latika Bhide, Planner discussed in their presentation to the Committee on a bicycle path program. Chair Hankins stated that she would draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council expressing praise for the City's progress with bicycle lanes/paths. Chair Hankins will send the letter to the Committee for their review. Mr. Eberhard Veit stated that the City should consult residents when resurfacing a road to get feedback on adding possible bicycle lanes.

- **Chair Hankins will draft letter to the City Council regarding support for the City's progress with bicycle lanes/paths.**

#### **e. Farmers' Market**

The Committee discussed their participation at the Farmers' Market during this summer. The Committee was pleased with their efforts at the Farmers' Market and at the interest received on the different topics. The Committee agreed to suspend having a booth at the Farmers' Market and to begin planning for next summer's Farmers' Market.

- **The Committee will suspend having a booth at the Farmers' Market.**

#### **f. Idling**

Mr. O'Meara stated he talked with both Superintendents from District 47 & District 155 about putting up no-idling signs around the schools. District 47 School Board is ok with the signs. Mr. O'Meara is still working to reach out to the District 155 School Principals and is waiting to hear back from the Assistant Business Manager for District 155. Mr.

O'Meara stated that Member Fuller has letters that could be sent home to parents regarding the no-idling signs. District 47 would also like an educational piece to send home to parents on the benefits of not idling. The Committee will work on putting together an educational piece. Mr. O'Meara also stated that he would contact the Bus Garage for Districts 47 & 155 to inquire about the buses not idling. Member Dieckhoff stated that she has heard there is a state law that school buses could not idle. Chair Hankins stated that this progress is great and appreciates all the work that Mr. O'Meara is doing. City staff Mitchell stated that once all the schools are on board with the no-idling signs, a proposal should be put together for the City Council's consideration, including letters of support from School Districts 47 & 155.

City staff Mitchell provided an update on the no-idling signs for the Downtown Train Station at the request of Member Dieckhoff. City staff Mitchell showed the Committee an example of the no-idling signs that would be placed at the Downtown Train Station. City staff Mitchell stated that he hopes to have the signs up before the Committee's next meeting.

- **Mr. O'Meara will follow-up with District 155 on the idling signs and the Bus Garage.**
- **City staff Mitchell will coordinate getting the no-idling signs up at the Downtown Train Station.**

**g. Participation at Johnny Appleseed Festival**

City staff Mitchell stated that the festival is on Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Committee discussed the volunteer schedule for the Clean Air Counts Committee booth. Member Dieckhoff stated the Member Fuller could work early. Member Dieckhoff asked if the Committee wanted the Energy Bike for the entire day and the Committee agreed that the Energy Bike should be there all day. Member Dieckhoff stated that little kids should not be on the bike and that the fuse will blow if someone runs the bike really fast. Chair Hankins suggested putting a sheet over the bike when there is not someone there to specifically watch the bike. Member Walker suggested a poster with the Committee's website address on it. Mr. Eberhard Veit will have the website address printed on a large sheet to display at the booth. Member Dieckhoff suggested displaying just one set of each handout to display on the table and reference the Committee's website for more information. Member Dieckhoff stated that there will be Breathe Easy Man coloring books and particulate bookmarks to handout to kids. Member Dieckhoff will check on the status of the coloring books. Chair Hankins stated that she will bring a bucket of crayons for kids to color in the books. Member Walker stated that she would bring a real lawnmower to display. The following is a tentative volunteer schedule for the Committee's booth:

- 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Member Fuller, Member Shepherd
- 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Chair Hankins, Member Dieckhoff
- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Member Gaska, Member Puchmelter
- 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Member Walker, Larry O'Meara

The Committee agreed to set-up between 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

- **Member Dieckhoff will coordinate the Energy Bike display and check on the status of the Breathe Easy Man coloring books.**
- **Chair Hankins will bring a bucket of crayons.**
- **Member Walker will bring a real lawnmower.**
- **Mr. Eberhard Veit will have the website address printed on a large sheet to display at the booth.**

**h. Business Development**

- Chair Hankins stated that the Committee will be joined by a member from the Crystal Lake Chamber's Green Business Task Force at future meetings. Chair Hankins asked to have the Green Business Task Force be placed early on the next meeting agenda to allow the member to speak about their goals for working with the Committee. The Committee also discussed the position of the Green Business Task Force Liaison.

- **City staff Mitchell will add the Green Business Task Force to the next agenda.**

**i. Prairie Fest – Green City Panel**

City staff Mitchell distributed information on the upcoming Prairie Fest at the request of Member Gaska.

**VI. Open Discussion**

The Committee reviewed the plans for the Johnny Appleseed Festival.

The Committee discussed forming possible sub-committees to encourage involvement from members of the public who are interested in certain topics and attend the meetings. The Committee also discussed ways to structure the meetings more formally.

**VII. Next Meeting Date**

The Committee discussed the next meeting dates. The Committee agreed to meet on October 6, 2008, November 3, 2008, and December 1, 2008.

**VIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Member Walker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. Member Shepherd seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.