

Village of La Grange Park
Cool Village Commission – Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2010

The meeting of the La Grange Park Cool Village Commission was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2010 at the Village Hall, 447 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange Park, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Liaison Julia Cedillo called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Members in attendance were:

Commission Members:	Patty Rocco David Mrazek Jamie Zaura David Grayson John Aikens Donna Twickler Kristen Grimm
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Others Present:	Julia Cedillo
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2. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Cedillo presented each Commissioner with an informational binder with supporting documents about the Commission. Ms. Cedillo also outlined the provisions of the Open Meetings Act and noted that a copy was included in the binder, for their reference. Since the meeting was the first for the newly created Commission, each Commissioner then introduced themselves to the group.

3. REVIEW OF GENERAL ASSIGNMENT

Ms. Rocco provided an overview of the Commissions' objectives and spoke about the resident-based coalition's proposal to the Village Board. Ms. Rocco outlined the four points of recommendation made by resident-based coalition to the Village Board, utilizing the Village Memo, dated October 22, 2009.

4. DISCUSSION

To begin group discussion, Commissioner Aikens inquired to Chairperson Rocco as to what the Village actually agreed to in consideration aforementioned recommendations. Ms. Rocco responded that the Village agreed to all of the recommendations with the exception of signing on to the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. Ms. Rocco explained that it was the Board's position to wait until after the baseline carbon emissions study was complete before making that decision. The Village Board wanted to make sure that the goals outlined in the Agreement were achievable goals for the Village of La Grange Park. Mr. Aikens responded that he appreciated the due process of the Board and stressed that it is important to understand the costs, commitments and what is involved before such a decision is made.

The group then discussed how costs for the Commissions' initiatives would be managed and how the group would be strategic in implementing the programs while achieving goals. The group also talked about the importance of re-educating residents about habits that affect the community and the environment. Chairperson Rocco reaffirmed to the group that the Commission's Charter included a focus on educating and implementing educational efforts that reach households. However, the carbon emissions must also take priority, and joining ICLEI was necessary to embark on the inventory because membership included software and support to accomplish the inventory.

There was some discussion about who would be actually doing the inventory and members responded that the Commissioner's would be volunteering their time to complete the work. However, at this time it is unclear as to how many licenses or users are allowed with membership. Commissioner Grimm explained that much research with other municipalities was conducted to determine how much time was needed to complete the evaluation. The group discussed that while the inventory may not be the most accurate measure of emissions, it is a baseline to start from and data collected over time will act similar to a time series analysis. The same items would be measured over time. The group concluded by stating that once the ILCLEI software becomes available, if possible, it would be emailed to all Commission members. Commissioner Twickler commented that it is her belief that membership allowed only two licenses per membership. Both Chairperson Rocco and Ms. Cedillo would keep the group updated as to what ICLEI will allow once membership is underway.

Commissioner Aikens suggested that parallel timelines to each task should be established. He suggested that he would be able to coordinate the project management side of all of the tasks undertaken. He offered to set up the new project management program which would allow the group to track progress in a number of areas at any given time. Simply stated, the group agreed that there is much to get done in a given period of time and work will have to coincide to accomplish all goals. In addition, it was agreed that the work should begin for the creation of the sustainability plan. Chairperson Rocco asked members to start pulling together examples of sustainability plans in other communities in an effort to gather ideas about what might be applicable in La Grange Park.

For the next meeting, Chairperson Rocco summarized that moving forward; the group will begin the following tasks:

- The Village will begin to gather data in advance of receiving the ICLEI software.
- The group will start considering sustainability programs for implementation in La Grange Park.
- The Village will move forward with signing on to ICLEI.

The Commission requested that Ms. Cedillo send out an electronic copy of the Local Government Operations Protocol, which will help guide the ICLEI carbon emissions inventory process. They also requested that Ms. Cedillo consider pulling data from the MWRD as well as from local utility companies. Ms. Rocco will inquire with ICLEI if it is allowed seven copies of the ICLEI software and will send in the application once

complete. Mr. Aikens agreed to look at creating a Microsoft Project Plan which will provide greater detail to the tasks to be done and corresponding timelines.

Chairperson Rocco inquired with Ms. Cedillo as to how the Village could actively promote programs. Ms. Cedillo replied that programs could be promoted in all public relations outlets. Ms. Cedillo also suggested that the Commission work with a new local not-for-profit that focuses on the education of the environment and sustainability with children in schools. Ms. Cedillo agreed to provide contact information about that new organization at the next meeting.

Chairperson Rocco emphasized to the group that she would like the monthly meeting format to be organized in such a manner that half of the meeting would be dedicated to environmental community programs and half would be dedicated to the ICLEI emissions inventory. All members of the Commission were in agreement with the suggestion.

One final suggestion made by members of the Commission was to consider membership to the Climate Change Network. The group agreed that information from this network would be valuable to assist with the development of community programs.

5. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Commission Chair Rocco thanked the Commissioners for a great first meeting and suggested that the group establish a regular meeting time with some set dates. The group agreed that for the time being, it would meet on the third Wednesday of each month, with March 17, April 21, and May 19 marking the date for the next three meetings.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Rocco reported that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 17. With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Cedillo, Assistant Village Manager