

**VILLAGE OF OSWEGO
MINUTES OF ECO COMMISSION**

**Community Room
100 Parkers Mill, Oswego, Illinois
OSWEGO, IL 60543**

**January 13, 2009
6:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Stenitzer called the Oswego ECO Commission Meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairman George Stenitzer, Ellen Von Ohlen, Dave Margolis, Kelly Joslin, Michael Satlak, Joyce Frankino, Chuck Legg, Robyn Meek, Phil Siedlecki, Staff Liaison Alison Giangrassse

Absent: John Aman

3. **MINUTES** – December 8, 2008 ECO Commission Minutes

MOTION: Approve January Minutes, Commissioner Von Ohlen; 2nd, Commissioner Frankino. Approved 7-0.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Tom Todd, of 83 Brockway Drive, has volunteered at previous Extravaganzas and Electronics Recycling events. After volunteering at the January 10th event, Mr. Todd suggested that ECO purchase two more signs to help residents find the location. Mr. Todd volunteered to donate two (2) tripods (in addition to the one he let ECO use at the January 10th event) to ECO to use as stands for the additional signage. ECO appreciated Mr. Todd's help and discussed that it might be beneficial to look into ordering a dolly for the heavier electronics. The Public Forum was closed.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Electronics Recycling

Liaison Giangrassse stated that the January 10th event went well. This was the first time there was a charge for recycling televisions and donations were accepted. The public handled it very well, and almost all participants/donators cooperated. In addition to an Electronics Recycling Technician that is to be hired in the coming weeks, Liaison Giangrassse proposed two Commissioners volunteer at each recycling event to help make the program operate more efficiently. A signup sheet for the upcoming dates was passed around with the last signup date of April 11, 2009. Each Commissioner was asked to sign up for two (2) events. The signup sheet was completed as shown below; there are still five (5) vacancies.

Jan 10

1. Joyce
2. Mike

Jan 24

1. Joyce
2. George

Feb 14

1. Mike

2. _____

Feb 28

1. Ellen

2. Phil

March 14

1. _____

2. _____

March 28

1. Robyn

2. George

April 11

1. _____

2. _____

B. Arbor Day

Mark Runyon the Assistant Director of Public Works, asked ECO to include Arbor Day in the Extravaganza/Earth Day Celebration. Some ideas were discussed as to how ECO could incorporate Arbor Day. Commissioner Joslin stated how in Wheaton there are tree ceremonies on Arbor Day, there is a contest among the school children and the class that wins gets to go onsite to see the tree being planted; this would be a great way to incorporate the schools as well. Chairman Stenitzer also added that it would be good to work with Kendall County on this; Kendall County sells trees and orders are taken online. The Chairman decided ECO should think about options and come back to the February meeting with more ideas.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Green Business Award

The Green Business Award (GBA) application was finalized. The email address of greenbusinessaward@oswegoil.org was added to direct questions via email to Giangrassse. All applications will be due March 6th. GBA information has been posted all over the website, newsletters, and newspapers.

B. Rain Barrels

Park District representative Dave Margolis explained that he plans on ordering barrels and hardware to make the barrels in time for spring. Volunteers to put the barrels together are boy scouts, or school children. After discussion on Rain Barrels, ECO agreed and voted to follow the guidelines for the rain barrel program as listed below:

- Buy up to 50 barrels
- Spend no more than \$1,500
- 20% of profits to go back to schools
- 80% of profits to go to a rain barrel fund to make more barrels in years to come.

MOTION: Approve the rain barrel program as listed above, Commissioner Siedlecki; 2nd, Commissioner Von Ohlen. Approved 7-0.

C. Green Can

Village Trustee has not gotten back to Giangrassse with a date for the next Public Services Committee meeting. Giangrassse will continue to follow up. Park District Representative Chuck Legg stated that the Park District is also in favor of this program and is waiting to see what the Village decides to do.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Community Development Report; January 8, 2009

Commissioner Siedlecki represented ECO at the January 8, 2009 Plan Commission meeting. There were two items on the agenda, the proposed well tower site for the Village, and a 1.5 mile jurisdictional review. Commissioner Siedlecki updated the Plan Commission on ECO's events including the date of the Extravaganza, the status of the Green Can project, and the Green Business Award.

Christmas Lights

Commissioner Joslin researched places where Christmas lights could be recycled. There is a company in Michigan that recycles the lights for free and in turn sends a 15% off coupon to the donator. Joslin proposed collecting Christmas lights at ECO's next Extravaganza. There is only a shipping charge associated with this program; ECO will look further into recycling Christmas lights at the April 18, 2009 Extravaganza.

There was an added topic regarding battery collection to the agenda under Other Business. The last collection of batteries was shipped to Michigan at a cost of \$889.85. It was noted by Chairman Stenitzer and Park District Rep Chuck Legg that ECO previously committed to collecting barrels of batteries, and it would be best to honor that prior commitment. Liaison Giangrasso will look further into the battery issue to research the amount of barrels ECO committed to.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Stenitzer discussed an article stating that not all CFL bulbs are made the same way; in fact some CFL light bulbs contain more mercury than others, which is an extremely hazardous substance. The Chairman also recommended that a Budget report be added to the agenda after approval of the Minutes.

9. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

At the December meeting, *Commissioner Joslin* introduced ECO to "Nature Hour" a program that the Library is starting. The program's goal is to provide opportunities to provide affordable environmental education to Oswego residents and create lasting partnerships between agencies. ECO could be involved by donating money to pay for instructor fees (minimum \$20); use Village Hall as a meeting place for the activities. This program could be highlighted in the spring newsletter. ECO decided this was a good way to get involved in the Community and further environmental initiatives. After discussion among the Commissioners and Park District representatives a motion was made. Because there is a possibility that Commissioner Joslin would be a part of Nature Hour, she recused herself from the vote.

MOTION: Participate in Nature Hour by providing assistance to the Library in the following ways: ECO will offer Village Hall to house Nature Hour; support Nature Hour in publications such as the website, newspaper articles, and the newsletter; distribute the Chicago Wilderness Activity Guides to Nature Hour participants, Commissioner Satlak; 2nd, Commissioner Frankino. Approved 6-0.

Commissioner Satlak talked about a way ECO could encourage sustainable development through building permit incentives. For residents, and developers alike, building permit fees could be reduced and/or the length of the process could be shortened to those petitioners who utilize green practices. This would be a great way for ECO to get further recognition, but moreover, a way to encourage green development, at a time when there is not much of an incentive to build green. For some projects, building permit fees do

not cost much, for example, fees to build a deck can be less than \$30, even so, this is an added appeal to development. ECO agreed that implementing a program that encourages green development through the building permit process is a great idea. Chairman Stenitzer said that the members should think of ways in which ECO could go about a program like this and come back to the February meeting with a list of ideas of steps to take.

Commissioner Siedlecki talked to ECO about Recycling at Oswego Events. Many items disposed of at events are recyclable. Liaison Giangrassse will work to require recycling at events around the community.

10. **ADJOURNMENT – 8:00 pm**

MOTION: Adjourn; Commissioner Von Ohlen; 2nd: Commissioner Satlak. Approved 7-0.

Minutes recorded by Alison Giangrassse