

**Cool Cities Coalition Meeting**  
**March 1, 2016**

**15 Present Total**

**7:00-8:30pm**

**Elmhurst College Student Observer: Hannah Lipman**

**I. Meeting called to order 7:05pm**

**II. Introductions**

**III. Announcements**

- a. Website has finally been updated from an older version, although still a work in progress. Barb wants to start up blog again about 'We Caught You Doing Something Cool' and eventually turn it into public press.
- b. Jennifer Hen from Fruitful Yield reached out and invited Cool Cities Coalition to have a table at a monthly event on March 19-20.
- c. Karen from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional United Church passed out fliers about their partnership with Swede Home Organics to offer organically grown vegetable and herb seedlings, with a percentage of sales being donated to church programs.
- d. Scarce is hosting a Sustainable Design Challenge for High School Students on April 5<sup>th</sup> at DuPage County Administrative building.
- e. Scarce received grant from DuPage County for a storage tank at the Elmhurst Sanitary Facility to collect cooking oil year round for all people.

**IV. DuPage Monarch Project Update**

- a. Elmhurst Mayor Morley signed up for a national wildlife foundation proclamation to preserve monarch butterflies. Starting April 22, this pledge must begin to be honored and it will take coordination with Cool Cities Coalition, Garden Club, the library, and park district especially to put on events. There are six main options, at least three must be used, and one must be collaborative.
- b. Discussion about creating additional certified way-stations and planting more milkweed for the butterflies. Discussed hopes for maybe more parks to become way-stations. Acknowledged Garden Club for being active.

**V. Pesticide-Free Lawns and Parks Update**

- a. Jill has been in charge of researching pesticide free lawns and has been looking into the Midwest Pesticide Action Center
- b. MPAC has been working on placing a pledge online that people can take to limit pesticide use and spread awareness. It was supposed to be up March 1<sup>st</sup> but will be delayed about two weeks. Along with taking the pledge, there will be monthly newsletters with tips and events.
- c. Lawn signs will also become available for \$2-\$5. Jill contributed the idea that she is going to take the pledge and buy signs for her neighbors, so that when they take the pledge, they can get signs and pass them on to others to raise awareness and so on.
- d. Since MPAC is for the greater Chicago area, Lisa raised the question if there would be ways to determine how many people in Elmhurst alone are participating
- e. Jill has been looking into policy regarding pesticides and was looking specifically at policy from Glenview which they have used since 2009. She would like to find ways to change Elmhurst policy to be more detailed like Glenview if possible.

**VI. Food Scrap Recycling**

- a. Lisa and Barb brought to attention the idea of curbside pickup of food scraps
- b. They discussed how Highwood has made proper disposal of scraps mandatory for their residents
- c. Elmhurst Waste Hauling contract is up a year from now, so if people begin showing support for this idea, it is hoped that a food scrap program can be integrated somehow
- d. Jill suggested the pickup could be the same day you put trash out
- e. Dan brought up the idea of costs and how the city would be concerned about paying for this, but suggests the city could allow for bids and pick the most cost effective one.
- f. Heidi suggested neighbors can share bins to save costs
- g. Lisa discussed the idea of it being optional for citizens to begin with
- h. It was discussed that maybe a central location where residents could bring their food scraps to if desired could be a solid option.

**VII. Citizen's Climate Lobby**

- a. Heidi discussed her involvement in the Citizen's Climate Lobby, which has grown into an international organization that works to find ways to limit greenhouse emissions in case anyone was interested in joining.
- b. Citizen's Climate Lobby serves to lobby members of congress to consider enacting fees or taxes on the source of generation of harmful emissions. The tax/fee would be put back into the households of people so that it doesn't damage the economy. Alaska has a similar system with oil and gas revenues.
- c. Meetings take place at a local chapter, and during the meeting, the group joins a conference call to connect with other chapters.
- d. Heidi would be interested in starting an Elmhurst chapter if there is enough interest, so she wants to try and gain public support.
- e. Heidi also explained that she submitted a resolution to the township that will encourage representatives in Congress to support reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**VIII. Garden Club**

- a. The Garden Club donated a check for \$250 to Cool Cities Coalition for their work with public programming

**IX. One Earth Film Festival Update**

- a. Event Sunday is sold out; if people show up without tickets they can wait in case people who ordered tickets don't show.
- b. Discussed minor details about the volunteers and who would be there
- c. Had three Elmhurst College students making folders for the event
- d. Parking passes should be distributed to everyone who ordered a ticket for the event

**X. Closing**

- a. Lisa provided a new flier her and Barb made
- b. Meeting ended at 8:27pm.