

Consortium of North Shore Environmental Groups – CONSEG

November 8, 2016

MINUTES

Reducing Plastic Use In Your Community

- Kim Stone – Overview & TED Diana Cohn

Gyres in ocean are only part of a huge problem. Must stop the flow in addition to cleaning it up. Only 7% of plastic bottles in US get recycled.

Whenever possible REFUSE before REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE
There is a gyre in the Great Lakes. Two Colorado towns had a competition to reduce use of plastic bags. The following year, the whole Colorado Association of Ski Towns did it together. This is a great tool for education. Kim Stone of Highland Park offers a challenge to any or all other CONSEG communities to do a competition.

Kumar Jensen – Evanston's Bag Ban

Initially looked at ordinance in 2011. The process stalled. A lot of opposition. Current ordinance was modeled after Chicago's, passed in August 2014 and became effective in August 2015. Focus is on large retailers and it targets disposable single use plastic bags. Very little opposition the second time around. They worked with affected businesses on implementation.

Ordinance Outcome was problematic. Retailers just created thicker plastic bags that are still being disposed.

City of Chicago is proposing a \$0.07 per bag fee in the FY 2017 budget.

Yuh Schabacker - Koppel – Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Green Minds

The Future depends on what you do today – Ghandi

They started a Bring Your Own Bag campaign. It's an easy issue to start with. Partnered with other community stakeholders. Village and Chamber of Commerce have been approached. Chamber has not yet sign on.

We think that bags cost retailers \$.03 – 40 per bag. They are asking stores to give a small incentive. Village will promote businesses that participate. Businesses will save money, and get PR.

Steps – Volunteers to sign up stores, Window stickers for participating stores, Car window reminder stickers, Earth Day event planned for outside major stores.

They are working to brand the program.

Tara Wesselink – Northbrook

Northbrook seems happy with the status quo. Their summer interns talked to business owners. They created a report and delivered it to the Village Board. Village reached out to GG Northbrook to work on a possible ordinance. Village added a regular green piece to the Northbrook publication. The discussions are on hold until after the election.

Advice – Get your high school students (or younger) involved. They can make a big difference!

Karen Glennemeier from the Shedd Aquarium – They want to investigate the possibility of working with communities to reduce plastic pollution.

Group Sharing:

Buffalo Grove working on Buffalo Creek watershed plan.

Evanston's residential waste contracts expire 10/17. They are working on a new RFP.

Glencoe slated some environmental people for local elections and re-started sustainability task force. Focus areas:

1. Active transportation
2. Demolition and construction waste
3. landscape waste
4. awareness
5. business

They also did a trash study, looking at costs and opportunities. The Plan Commission is holding public hearings on a downtown plan.

Glenview mentioned their Green Business Award.

Highland Park – Looking into coal tar sealant ban, bike sharing, they need to get more people involved.

Kenilworth – Looking at green infrastructure for storm water management. They are using permeable paving, offering rain barrels

to residents, doing parkway tree planting. SWANCC is doing holiday light recycling. Area Schools Environmental Groups – working with New Trier and north suburban schools. NTHS has a sustainability working group, We are working to help them start food composting.

Lake Forest/Lake Bluff – Got funding for no-idling signs at schools. Working with schools to reduce use of Styrofoam, and school supply recycling program. Also working on pesticide reduction and compost.

Lake County Green Congregation – Large land development involving cutting down 2,500 trees. 148 homes proposed. Will impact water flow into Butler Lake which will pollute the lake.

Mettawa: Program on water management this weekend Nov. 13 at the Adlai Stevenson Center. Offering an essay conference for students. Civics program but could include environmental issues. Jo Davies County League of Women Voters doing a two-day conference that will include the water shed game

Northbrook: Focusing on stormwater. Looking at tree preservation ordinance with an eye towards environmental impact of trees. Proposing that the Village consider storm water management and air cleaning value of trees. Using Davy Tree formula that calculates the value of a tree. Having a Food Waste Fair and Just Eat It showings this Saturday.

Northfield – In formation

Oak Park – Interested in our coalition and they are interested in starting a consortium on the west side. They have Divvy Bikes. They have curbside food compost pick up for a fee. 10% of the community participates.

Rolling out a Green Guides program for their community.

Green Film Festival – March 3 -11

Park Ridge has a rain barrel rebate program and GGPR helps install. Pumpkin composting, working to establish community garden, bike/walk efforts, monarch initiative, and natural lawn care demo at the park district.

Wilmette has no idling signs that others can borrow. Their first fundraiser earned \$2,000. The True Cost screening on Nov. 15th, Going Green Matters on March 12, 2017, Active By Design Summit, and Gillson Park planting with 350 volunteers and 20,000 plants. (This was not a GGW program, but GGW supported program.)

Winnetka – Now a 501c3 with a Board, modeled after Go Green Wilmette. Doing green teas at the library on recycling, decluttering, compost, food waste, plastic bags, plant-based diets, etc. They have a coal tar ban in place, working on storm water management. Trex challenge educates about the range of plastics that can be recycled – trex.com. Village is looking at pesticide free lawn care. They are also

working on addressing obstacles to recycling, including walkability in downtown plan, and environmental literacy at schools.

Some films on plastic:

Dianna Cohen's Ted talk:

https://www.ted.com/talks/dianna_cohen_tough_truths_about_plastic_pollution

Open Your Eyes,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9znvqIkIM-A>

Oceans of Plastic, 5 minutes (http://jessen.com/dt_portfolio/oceans-of-plastic/)

The Majestic Plastic Bag Mockumentary –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLgh9h2ePYw>