

Buffalo Grove Environmental Action TEAM

Meeting minutes, March 1, 2011

Minutes from the March 1 BG Environmental Action Team meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

We welcomed one new member, Josh Hatch and current members

Jerry Meyerhoff

Jeff and Linda Spitz

Deenie Pomillia

Jill Stites

Steve White

Jeff Weiss

Mark Steurer

Tony Schaefer

Wendy Frank

Committee reports

1. **Community Education** – Deenie and Wendy met recently to brainstorm ideas. Refrigerator magnets. They will print cards with current information about recycling to be attached to refrigerator magnets for pass-out at future EAT events. We learned on our tour of the recycling facility that the criteria for what materials are recyclable keeps changing. The magnets will provide a quick reference for residents.
Display case. We will prepare a high quality display for recycling and offer it to the Park District, local libraries and other organizations to raise awareness of recycling. The committee will seek design help and advice, including Debbie Fandrei, the curator of the Raupp historical museum, to get this going.
The committee is also planning EAT participation at upcoming Village and Park District senior events.
2. **Publicity** – we composed new text for our ad in the Park District summer brochure. Tony will reach out to Jess Tanyko to get updates and upgrades to our Facebook page, including the “Like” function and event announcements. Jill reported on her recent activities and distributed a flier about Earth Week at the Forest Preserves. She will lead a Green Building tour at the Ryerson welcome center at 10 am on April 23.

2011 Event plans and dates

1. **Adopt-a-highway** – Linda announced that the next road cleanup will be at 9 am on April 3. Everyone at the meeting signed up! We will again meet at Siemens. Linda, please prepare an announcement for distribution to the full Team.
2. **Alternative energy** – Steve reported out on a recent meeting he attended at Grainger. The 3 megawatt solar project was implemented in New Jersey where a four-year payback period is possible, due to a combination of tax rebates, depreciation and energy credits. Steve will continue to look for cost-effective approaches for local alternative energy and will contact WT Engineering to discuss. Jeff mentioned that Vernon Township is using Prairie View train station parking proceeds to purchase a small wind turbine. Wendy will forward her information on alternative energy grants to Steve.

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3. **Bike/alternative transportation** – Jerry provided an update on the BG bicycle commission, which is proceeding with active participation by Village officials. He described the various subcommittees and the planned Weidner Road project.
4. **Earth Day/Earth Hour** – Earth Day is on Good Friday this year. EAT will publicize related events and the on our Facebook page. Josh will investigate Walk to School Days sponsored by our local school districts. Earth Hour is 3/26 from 8:30-9:30 pm. Lights out!
5. **Greenfest** – Greenfest is set for May 13-15 at McCormick place. Jill will look into and publicize EAT participation opportunities.
6. **Habitat restoration** – May 21 was set as a Habitat day at Rylko Park. Jeff will recruit scout and other community groups to pitch in with EAT for a productive workday.
7. **Recycling** – Tony announced that September 24 is set for the next electronics recycling event at Siemens. EAT will again be a co-sponsor and provide volunteers, subject to a new waiver form required by Siemens. Mark distributed an article about a Libertyville Green Fair on March 12.
8. **BG Days** – The BG Days committee has met and Debi will update us next meeting. The plan is to continue and expand our presence and recycling efforts.
9. **Farmers Market** – A committee consisting of Wendy, Mark, Deenie and Jerry will plan another bike collection for the opening day of the Farmers Market in June, and possible additional market sessions during the season.

Member updates

Jeff W. reported that EAT is joining the Chicago Wilderness consortium.

Comprised of more than 300 governmental units, park districts, forest preserves, corporate and citizen groups, CW focuses on biodiversity, open spaces, “no child left inside” and climate change.

We discussed recycling at Park District basketball games. Jeff S. will work to get this organized before the season next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50. Future meetings are set for April 5 and May 17 at 7 pm. Mark your calendars!

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Weiss
Founder, BG EAT
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