

PVERC August Meeting - August 28, 2013

- **Call to Order**
- **Approve July Meeting Minutes**
- **Review Agenda, add New Business items**
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Community Forum**
 - **Community Garden**
 - **Earth Fair**
 - **Education**
 - **Village Fest**
- **Old Business**
 - **Labels for Community Forum mailings**
 - **Storage for miscellaneous Committee materials**
- **New Business**
 - **World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour City Challenge**
 - _____
- **Adjourn**

PRAIRIE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLE COMMITTEE

Minutes, July 24, 2013

Thomas O'Brien, for the Steering Committee, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Attending were Thomas O'Brien, Al Pugsley, Anne Marie Hedge (as a guest), Margaret Goldstein, Penny Mahon, Barbara Brown, Deb English, Ashley Weaver, Dennis Engslinger, Ruth Hopkins, Karin McAdams, Polly Swafford and visitors Caitlin Dix, Amy Bell, Marilyn Logan, Brian Pauls and Nikki Pauls.

The minutes from June were approved as written. Marilyn Logan, who signed up at Village Fest, was welcomed.

Award presentation:

- **Anne Marie Hedge**, who recently resigned from the committee, was awarded a Community Spirit Award but couldn't come to Village Fest to receive her award. Fortunately for us, Deb English was able to present the award at this meeting, reading the text of the award and giving the plaque to Anne Marie.

Special guests:

- **Brian Pauls**, with his wife, Nikki, attended the meeting to discuss chickens. Brian explained that he raised chickens starting about age 10, and now they are soon to adopt a Chinese daughter who will be ten when she comes. He would like to be able to raise chickens, and he'd like his daughter to share that experience. He, Dennis and committee members raised some relevant considerations:
 - There are Prairie Village residents who want chickens, but apparently the issue has not yet been raised officially.
 - At this point the city has an ordinance banning "animal husbandry," and quite a few homes associations, especially those developed by J.C. Nichols, have covenants that are similar.
 - A pro-chicken movement has to start with education, and probably homes associations are the first line; if some of the larger ones favored chickens, others might well follow.
 - Why do people object to the raising of small numbers of chickens (hens, to be precise)? There are concerns about contaminated water runoff, smell, sound, disease and property values, but these are easily refuted.
 - Thos. encouraged the Pauls to attend committee meetings often and push members to keep looking at the issue.

Reports and business

- **Community Gardens**
 - The gardens are growing fine; plants are huge! In October gardeners will be able to renew their plot rights for next year.
- **Community Forum:** The date is October 3, 5:30 p.m., and the theme is "What's in our Water?"
 - Dr. Michael T. Meyer from the USGS will be the speaker. Before he speaks, KNRC will offer us a legislative update.
 - The space is reserved and the food is taken care of. Bluebird Bistro will cater the dinner again.
 - We'll address invitations at the next meeting. In the meantime, Polly will be working on publicity.

- This year people will be able to choose: \$20 for dinner and the presentation or \$10 for just the presentation.
- **Earth Fair:**
 - The subcommittee decided that we need to meet early to choose a theme. With that, it will be possible to approach the commercial art teacher with the possibility of creating posters for us in a timely fashion.
- **Village Fest:**
 - The fishing activity, the bicycle-powered lights and the electric cars were all popular. However, we could do better next year:
 - Need more volunteers between 10 and noon
 - Smaller treats would be good
 - The poles could all be quite small
 - A poster showing what can and can't be recycled would help the kids and also the volunteers
 - The bike attracted attention, but it didn't work very well. More tech support is needed
 - Deb is oversubscribed, heading up both Village Fest and the Forum. She needs the committee to recruit a new volunteer.
- **Other business:**
 - The composting project at Normandy Square has experienced problems with pick-up, as has the yard waste pick-up system. They need a neighborhood volunteer to count the barrels that are being put out.
 - Ashley reported that there are new lids on the recycling bins at Franklin Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10

The next meeting will be held on August 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin McAdams