

LC ROSC May 2024 Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Mary Roberson.

Presenter: Frank Pettis, also known in our community as “Mr. Sunflower”. He’s been with the Clean Power Initiative since 2013.

During Frank’s presentation he was vulnerable enough to share some very personal information about his family’s background, health issues.

His presentation also took us into the history of environmental and racial injustices.

The Environmental Justice Movement (EJ Movement) started in the 1970’s. It included the addressing of the genocide of native people, international slave trade, redlining/restrictive covenants, Gerrymandering and Racist policy choices.

The history included the following activities by activist of the Black Panthers, Chicano groups, Anti-War protestors and Asian Pacific activist.

When asked how the Clean Power Initiative relates to Recovery, Franks shares that lifestyle, food, environment and pollutants, along with lack of healthy food and hospital access, help to lead to asthma and diabetes. These along with substance use disorder contribute to a low life expectancy and household income.

Medline Industries, Inc. located in Waukegan, IL is a commercial sterilizer that uses ethylene oxide (EtO) to sterilize medical equipment. The EPA considers Medline to be one of the largest sources of EtO emissions in Lake County, Illinois, along with Vantage Specialty Chemicals in Gurnee, which uses EtO in chemical production.

This is a human carcinogen that can cause Cancer, mutation of genetic material and is very dangerous. It is colorless and odorless.

Frank stressed the need for residents being informed and becoming aware of how while Medline and other industries provide income and employment, they also have a responsibility to help prevent and eliminate pollutants.

Dr. Mary opened the floor for questions:

K. Varnell suggested Frank connect with a coalition in OK.

Dr. Mary voiced our need to use our voices to advocate and make changes in our community.

Liz Nelson asked if there were any resources with new companies coming into Lake County to help them be proactive.

- A. Frank said he would share the EJ Movement and principles. The goal of the community being more inclusive in creating the 'community benefit package' for the best interest of the community from the inception.)

Marie Washington-Hall thanked Frank for sharing the EJ Movement information.

Dr. Mary Roberson opened the floor to ask if ROSC Members had any questions or announcement?

5/25/2024- Eddie Washington Graduation (15 graduates)

6/8/2024- NIRCO's Faith Leaders Brunch

Amanda Douglas shared flyers of NIRCO's upcoming events in the chat.

And the Rally is coming!

September 21, 2024 at the UIC Credit Union 1 Arena

Attendance LC ROSC 5.23.2024

Dr. Mary Roberson

Danny Sourbis

Michelle Esser

George Eber-Kalimba

Joy Gossman

Liz Nelson

Laz Per

Ben Rudolph

Patti Fuller

Jason Sutton

Dr. Muriel Adams

Marc Jones

Andrea Shales Collen Casey

Tracy Doues

Amanda Douglass

K. Varnell

Bruce Johnson

Blake Armin

Sarah Chenier

Patric D' Assandron

LaSheena Jenkins

Connie DeWall

Elizabeth Kinahan-Shafer

Barbara Young

Marie Washington-Hall

Jeff Roberson