Meeting began at approximately 10:00am with introductions of 10 individuals in attendance;

* Chris Finn; Bolingbrook PD
* Ryan Veldman; Tinley Park PD
* Chad Hofstra; Tinley Park PD
* Patrick Lemar; Midlothian PD
* Zachary Ingalls; Hickory Hills PD
* Ken Stephens ; New Lenox PD
* Gary Wilde; New Lenox PD
* Shari Wolfe; Oak Lawn PD
* Ryan Gory; Oak Lawn PD
* Emily Kenny; Will County FPD

An overview of the agenda was presented by Chris

Minutes

* December and January to be approved at March meeting

Stihl Trailer

* Announcement was made regarding the Stihl Trailer coming out to our March 5th meeting at Hickory Hills. They will have many battery powered items to see and demo.

Grants

* Group discussed grant opportunities they were aware of and also have used including
  + ComEd – Building retrofits as well a EV charging opportunities (some can be pay return)
  + OSLAD – Uncertain about amount funding this cycle. $600K match now
  + DCEO / Tourism Grant
  + Trees Forever - $25K for Hazard Removal Trees
  + Morton Arboretum administered grants – Tree Inventory- many working with Graf
  + DNR – Boat Launch grant available
  + NEEF – Open Spaces
  + Land and Water Conservation currently $12M available – good for acquisitions
  + Invest in Cook – Trails and Pathways- Bike and Ped ADA improvements
  + DuPage County does some trails grants
  + Target has some community grants available
  + REI has some community grants available
  + Grant Gopher .com is a source of many funding opportunities
  + ITEP has had some negative comments regarding funding opportunities

IPRA Conference

* The conference was discussed with many reporting on some good sessions they attended as well as some not so good ones.
  + Motorized Scooters- Was a topic many saw at conference. Discussion ensued with many reporting agencies views as to how to handle. Many agreed that not allowing them would limit the most risk and potential enforcement.

Round Table Items

* Snow and Ice schedules were discussed with regard to staffing. Comparisons were made regarding on call schedule, staffing rotations, compensation, requirement for snow removal including days agency is open, and overtime.

Announcements

* Colm Halpin was in attendance from Clean Cans & Power Washing. Colm addressed the group regarding his services in trash can cleaning as well as power washing abilities for amenities such as water park slides and playgrounds. Colm will possibly support an upcoming meeting
* It was discussed that due to Stihl Demo Trailer in March, additional agency staff members would be allowed and encouraged to attend to check out the battery powered tools.

Next meeting will be at Midlothian PD on March 5th. The main topic will be Turf Management and include the Stihl Demo Trailer with Andrew Guetler of Stihl Midwest.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45am.

Submitted by Ryan Veldman 2/12/25.