

# ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022

### Conducted Remotely

Commission Members Present: Laura Derks (Chair), Liz Lukehart, Lisa Boone, Cassandra West, Darryl Baker.

Commission Members Absent: Mark Goldberg, Stephen Morales

Staff Liaison Present: Mindy Agnew, Sustainability Coordinator

Presenters / Guests Present: Marcella Bondie Keenan, Sustainability Coordinator

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derks at 5:30p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda and it was unanimously approved with no revisions.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve previous meeting minutes, it was unanimously approved with none opposed.
4. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
5. **Agenda Items:**
  - **Chair/Staff Liaison Report:**
    - Staff liaison states that 2022 Environment & Energy Commission workplan was approved by the Board of Trustees:
    - Commission discusses recommending that the Board adopt an ordinance stating that single-use plastics are only available upon request, and banning Styrofoam ban. Commissioner Boone makes a motion to recommend an Oak Park ordinance that mirrors the City of Chicago's single-use plastic ordinance, with an implementation date of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Baker seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously. Staff liaison requests that the Commission prepare a report to the Board that will accompany the policy recommendation.
    - Commission discusses outreach events during Earth month (April). Staff requests commissioner feedback on options. Recommendations include creating an informational resource flyer regarding community gardens, pollinator gardens, edible gardens and green infrastructure; and staffing a table at a library, park or other community location to distribute information and giveaways.

- **S/CARP Climate Action Plan Update – Ambassador Outreach:**
    - Staff presents Climate Plan project schedule and Climate Ambassador outreach resources. Resources include a presentation deck and sample social media posts. Commission discusses groups which could be engaged by Climate Ambassadors., including youth.
    - Commissioners West and Lukehart facilitate a brainstorming session on how the Climate Plan outreach can be enhanced. Recommendations include: Letters, op-eds, or articles in local newspapers; posting on active Facebook groups; Videos or ads on Channel 6; working with Inter-Faith Green Network; leaving promotional materials at the Oak Park Conservatory and Sugar Beet Co-op; creating a display at the library’s exhibit room; conducting outreach to condo associations.
  
  - **S/CARP Climate Action Plan Update – GHG Inventory Update:**
    - Staff presents highlights from the greenhouse gas inventory report that was presented to the Board of Trustees. Building energy and transportation will continue to be the biggest drivers of carbon emissions. The inventory will continue to become more refined throughout the planning process. Staff answers commissioner questions about the methodology and data sources. Chairperson Derks asks if there is another independent auditor? Staff presents information regarding the various possible definitions and strategies to reach net zero energy in Oak Park, and requests that the commission consider: What should the boundary be for Oak Park’s renewable energy production and GHG emission reduction?
  
  - **Better Homes Better Planet Campaign Update:**
    - Staff liaison states that campaign has been very successful and there have been about 22 applications so far, including some for income eligible grants. Chair Derks suggests that these stories could be promoted via a local newspaper story.
6. **Adjourn:** At 7:00 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

**The next EEC meeting is planned for April 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.**