

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes August 2, 2022

Conducted Remotely

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

Commission Members Absent: Lisa Boone, Stephen Morales, Carly Provost-Rizor.

Staff Present: Marcella Bondie Keenan, Sustainability Coordinator

Guest Presenter Present: Mark Pruitt, MC2 Consultant.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derks at 5:30 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda and it was unanimously approved with no revisions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve previous meeting minutes, it was unanimously approved with none opposed.
3. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
4. **Agenda Items:**
 - **Oak Park Community Choice Aggregation Program** – *Information about the Community Choice Aggregation program can be found at: www.oak-park.us/aggregation. The Electricity Aggregation Procurement Request for Proposals (RFP) can be found at: www.oak-park.us/rfp.*
 - Mark Pruitt introduces himself as a consultant to the Village's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. He describes his professional background as the first director of Illinois Power Agency and begins to share his screen. Link to slide deck here: [COMMUNITY SOLAR FOR ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES \(oak-park.us\)](http://www.oak-park.us/communities)
 - The purpose of his presentation is to provide information about electricity supply options in Illinois, dive deeper into the details of the structure of CCA in Oak Park, and generically discuss renewables at the national, regional, and local level.
 - Mark Pruitt walks through the slides about the Illinois energy supply and pricing options for different types of contracts then pauses for questions. Chairperson Derks asks for clarification on small commercial vs big commercial consumers and municipal facilities. Mark Pruitt defines small commercial as non-residential accounts that consume less than 10,000 kwh per year. Municipal

facilities receive franchise consideration.

- Mark Pruitt continues on to discuss the two CCA models for municipalities in Illinois, Single Fixed Price and ComEd Price Match. Ramona Blaber asks which customers can be served at the price less than the ComEd default rate? Mark Pruitt responds that the cost to serve is determined by 3 elements: the ratio of seasonal energy consumption, the size of the account, and the ratio between the account's annual peak demand and total consumption. The selection analysis takes a look at use patterns for the past 24 months and the portfolio changes over time. Marcella Bondie Keenan asks Mark Pruitt to define the acronym RPS, he states that it means Renewable Portfolio Standard which is the statewide goal to match a certain percentage of energy consumption with renewable energy credits.
- Mark Pruitt gives an overview of the Oak Park CCA timeline and profile. He answers a few questions about the municipal contribution policy and market conditions. While Oak Park is geographically relatively small, it is dense and has fairly high consumption levels compared to other municipalities.
- Mark Pruitt explains the status, timeline, general specifications, and sustainability elements of Oak Park's current CCA solicitation. He then goes over the definitions of Carbon Offset and Direct Use Renewables.
- Mark Pruitt moves on to discuss renewable wholesale markets and shows a map of current national wind and solar assets from the Energy Information Administration (EIA). Next, he shows the distribution of renewables in the region, followed by the percent of renewables in the ComEd energy mix. Discussion ensues about the requirements and structure of renewable development via CCA and the possibility of joining forces with other municipalities.
- Marcella Bondie Keenan asks the commissioners what is most important to them about the CCA program? Chairperson Derks answers that reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the goals in the Climate Plan is the most important aspect. Darryl Baker asks Mark Pruitt what the most common opposition to CCA has been in his experience? Mark responds that most common concern is that the CCA price not be appreciably higher than the price from the local utility. Liz Lukehart asks if the municipal contribution is the biggest source of funding for the sustainability fund? Marcella Bondie Keenan responds that yes, it is the largest. Liz Lukehart follows up by stating that the Village should try to find ways to support the lower to moderate income families that might be affected by a higher premium. Ramona Blaber suggests a progressive rate structure, Mark Pruitt says there is nothing preventing this type of structure but it is not common. Chairperson Derks thanks Mark Pruitt for his complex and very informative

presentation.

- **Green Awards Update** – *The current Green Awards information can be found at: www.oak-park.us/greenawards. The 2021 awards presentation: <https://www.oak-park.us/news/2021-community-awards-celebrate-stewardship>.*
 - Chairperson Derks would like feedback on renaming the Green Awards and reworking the proposal before the Village communications department sends out the nomination form. The commission will decide the winners at the November meeting.

- **Project Updates & Commission Calendar**
 - Next meeting is September 6th after Labor Day weekend, please let Marcella Bondie Keenan know if you are able to attend.
 - IGOV Sustainability Forum is September 24th.
 - September meeting will begin discussion of the 2023 workplan.
 - October will be the LRS facility tour, Sustainability Fellow Erica Helms will coordinate with those who are interested.

- **New Business** – *Provide an opportunity for all members to introduce new topics at the next meeting, but not to fully deliberate or make decisions on the topic during the current meeting.*
 - No new business.

- **Adjourn:** At 7:00 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

The next EEC meeting is scheduled for September 6th at 5:30pm.