

**Village of Oak Park
Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) – Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2020**

Location: Village of Oak Park Village Hall Room 124

Attendees: Laura Derks (Chair), Colin Hughes Taylor (Commissioner), Lisa Boone (Commissioner), Stephen Morales (Commissioner), Scott Friesen (Commissioner), Mark Goldberg (Commissioner), Ravi Parakkat (Commissioner), Mindy Agnew (Staff Liaison)

Call to Order: 7:01pm – The January 7, 2020 meeting of the Village of Oak Park Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) was called to order.

- The December 9, 2019 minutes were reviewed and discussed by the committee members.

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes as modified by Commissioner Friesen was made, Commissioner Goldberg seconds the motion. No Further Discussion. Motion carries.

Agenda Item: Chairperson’s Report

Chairperson Derks announced Elizabeth Judson notified her she will no longer be able to serve on the Commission due to work commitments. Chairperson Derks then spoke about a preliminary meeting she will be attending regarding Earth Day, 50th anniversary. She also spoke about her experience attending the PlanIt Green Institutional Leaders Breakfast in December. Chairperson Derks mentioned the Oak Park Board of Health will be discussing an outreach plan to educate residents on issues of lead in drinking water at their January 28th meeting and asked Commission members to participate in the discussion if they were available.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Walter passed out a copy of his letter to the editor about electric aggregation. He spoke of his upcoming meeting with Senator Harmon on Saturday, January 11th. Mr. Walter stated there is a green provider that is selling lower cost electricity than mc squared but he is interested in suggestions on raising awareness and promoting signing up for low cost electricity.

David Martin spoke about being a water quality expert and writing about water quality issues all over the country. He spoke about his most recent column regarding what Newark, NJ is doing about lead remediation and about their lead pipe replacement and efforts to provide water filters to qualifying residents. He stated he sent a proposal for consideration to staff in November regarding a 50/50 lead remediation program in Oak Park based on what is being done in Newark. James Walter commented that he feels the real problem with lead pipes is between the street and house.

Pat Klutz stated he really likes that Oak Park was leading with renewable energy activities in the Village. He spoke about his suggestion that any new construction or major rehab work should be mandated to put some type of renewable energy into the house/project. He thinks the cost of installing renewable energy features during construction would be a fraction of what a house costs. Commissioner Friesen spoke about his ideas on installing renewable energy throughout the Village with the sustainability funds versus requiring people to install it.

Agenda Item: Staff Report

Mindy stated she did not have anything to report and the Commission should proceed with the discussion items carried over from the last meeting.

Discussion / Action Items carried over from December 9, 2019 Special Meeting

Single-use Plastics study session preparation

Commissioner Morales held a discussion with the Commission based on their feedback regarding the recommendations the Commission proposed for the draft mandatory ordinance for restaurants regarding single use plastics in the Village. He discussed the items the Commission is looking to eliminate and clarifying that the eliminated items are for restaurants and not convenience or grocery stores. The Commission discussed including clear information in the narrative for the ordinance, cost information, and research of similar communities in size who already established a program. The discussion continued about restaurants in the Village already in compliance, the enforcement of restaurants, the involvement of various private haulers, and potential restaurant composting. Further discussion regarding marketing and cash-based incentives, making it easy for business to convert, and what other incentives and rebates could possibly be included was had.

The Commission agreed on the verbiage and voted unanimously to submit a final recommendation to the Board to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the use of single-use plastics that include Polystyrene foam by all eating establishments that includes creating a definition for single-use plastics and foam, an initial rebate to cover the variance of cost up to \$200, have a measurement for inventory monitoring year-to-year and waste, create a standard operating procedure for training employees, and that funds for incentives.

Commissioner Friesen motioned and Commissioner Parakkat seconded.

Building Benchmarking Memo Discussion

Earth Day 2020, 50th anniversary

Chairperson Derks would like to move agenda items not discussed tonight to next meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Boone and Commissioner Taylor seconds the motion. No further discussion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:43p.m.