

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes January 11, 2022

Conducted Remotely

Commission Members Present: Laura Derks (Chair), Lisa Boone, Mark Goldberg, Liz Lukehart, Stephen Morales, Cassandra West, Darryl Baker, Colin Taylor.

Commission Members Absent: None.

Staff Liaisons Present: Mindy Agnew, Sustainability Coordinator and Marcella Bondie Keenan, Sustainability Coordinator.

Guest Presenters Present: Tim Kelly, Rick Easty, and Frank Heitzman from the Building Code Advisory Commission (BCAC).

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 with a few suggested revisions from Stephen Morales, it was unanimously approved with none opposed.
4. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
5. **Agenda Items:**
 - **Chair/Staff Liaison Report:**
 - Mindy Agnew provides a brief update on the new hauler contract and references the news release about the upcoming change on the website. Effective April 1st the Village will have a new waste hauler, Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS). Collection dates and rates will remain unchanged. LRS will contact residents by mail with instructions regarding the new carts, compost program, and the online portal. Waste Management will remove their carts on or before April 1st.
 - Stephen Morales asks about an announcement of the pickup of Waste Management's carts. Mindy Agnew states that she will confirm the plan with Public Works.
 - Chairperson Derks asks about the addition of two compost sites. Mindy Agnew confirms that this is the plan and it will be mentioned in the Oak Park FYI.

- Chairperson Derks asks about apartment complex owners being able to opt in to the compost service. Mindy Agnew will confirm these details with Public Works and Communications.
 - Chairperson Derks mentions that there will be a list of recyclable items on the lid of the new bins.
 - Mindy Agnew continues to discuss the budget and states that she will have a summary page by the next meeting.
 - Chairperson Derks asks about the plastic bag fee. Mindy Agnew states that the numbers generally look the same since implementation of the ordinance and that this information will be published in the Oak Park FYI and on the website.
- **S/CARP Climate Action Plan Update:**
 - Marcella Bondie Keenan shares her Oak Park Climate Plan Monthly Update memo and explains that in December 2021 the board approved \$9,000 in additional funds for community engagement. These funds will go directly to community organizations that the Village is partnering with for affinity groups and human centered design activities.
 - The EEC feedback on the Climate Plan website and DIY Meeting Kit has been incorporated. The updated Meeting Kit will be available later this week.
 - Marcella Bondie Keenan shows where the option to request a Climate Ambassador has been added to the website.
 - She continues on to discuss recent meetings and events, website milestones, and community engagement efforts.
 - ERG is working on the GHG Inventory on the ClearPath platform. They are documenting any changes that they recommend. This will be presented to the board in February (tentatively 2/28).
 - GRaEF is focusing on Village program evaluations this week and next week. They will transfer and analyze the GIS and program evaluation data for development of recommendations and action items.
 - The draft Climate Plan will be released to the public in May 2022.
 - There are also joint commission meetings planned for May, more details to come.
 - Cassandra West asks about the structure and role of the Climate Ambassadors. Chairperson Derks suggests creating a deck, training, or script for consistency. Marcella Bondie Keenan offers to facilitate this with GRaEF.
 - Chairperson Derks discusses the feedback from the DIY meeting kit beta testing with the IFG men's group. There is a need for more background information or perhaps graphics on climate change in general. Marcella Bondie Keenan has forwarded this feedback to GRaEF.
 - The EEC will receive an update on the recommendations from ERG before the board meeting on 2/28.
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- **Better Homes Better Planet Campaign Update:**
 - Mindy Agnew provides a brief update on the energy efficiency campaign. Final content is being added to the public website and there have been over 400 form inquiries to date. The housing department will provide more data on the applications. There will be a percentage of the budget spent section added to the main page and it will be updated frequently. The dashboard will be revised with more detailed information and updated regularly. Historic preservation information will be added to the FAQ section.
 - Chairperson Derks asks about the funds allocated for this project. Mindy Agnew states that 3 homes are in the income eligible retrofit process and there is an additional \$225,000 for solar rebates. The total funds for the program exceed \$600,000 and the amount of funds remaining will be tracked on the website.

- **2021 Green Awards Plan:**
 - Due to Covid-19 disruptions at Village Hall, Mindy Agnew is waiting for the Planning Department to announce the date in January that the Green Awards will take place. She suggests changing the original plan from having all 8 commissioners involved to having only 1 or 2 commissioners announce the awards in order to make coordination easier. She will coordinate the video recording once the date is set.

- **Energy Stretch Code Information:**
 - Frank Heitzman explains that BCAC was given the task by the Village Board to amend the requirements for electrification in Oak Park.
 - They have been having guest speakers at their meetings to learn more about the possibilities and have been considering implementing stretch codes that can add new requirements to the existing state energy codes. However, Illinois recently passed the Climate Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) which states they will implement a new code in 2023. This has slightly changed the direction that the commission is going.
 - Tim Kelly begins by thanking the EEC for their service to the community, especially for the plastic bag fee. He continues on to state the BCAC goal of continuing research in order to incorporate a “green direction” into the existing village codes. He then invites EEC commissioners to speak at a BCAC meeting and offer their suggestions.
 - Frank Heitzman suggests having an EEC commissioner serve as a liaison present at each monthly BCAC meeting and vice versa. Chairperson Derks nominates Darryl Baker, he accepts and agrees to be present at the next meeting. Chairperson Derks suggests including advocacy for electrification in the scope of the code amendments.
 - Stephen Morales asks for clarification on how stretch codes are being used and if they are incentivized. Frank Heitzman responds that they are requirements above the Illinois energy code.

- Chairperson Derks asks if the codes are only for new construction, Frank Heitzman states that they apply to both new construction and remodeling. Chairperson Derks mentions that most of the construction in Oak Park is residential remodeling of old buildings but there are a lot of new buildings coming up.
 - Both commissions agree that this is a good starting point and will keep the conversation going.
- **New Business:**
 - Chairperson Derks mentions the need to focus on Earth Fest in April after the 2022 workplan is approved.
 - Stephen Morales has a question regarding leaf blowers. Is there a timeline for having a recommendation to the board? Chairperson Derks responds that there is not a specific date set yet. Colin Taylor suggests moving it up. Chairperson Derks suggests having a recommendation by March and Colin Taylor agrees.
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 February 8, 2021 at 5:30pm.