

**Village of Oak Park
Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) – Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2018**

Location: Village of Oak Park Village Hall Room 124

Attendees: Nick Bridge (Chair), Elizabeth Judson (Commissioner), Stephen Morales (Commissioner), Townsend Bailey (Commissioner), Laura Derks (Commissioner) John Wielebnicki (Public Works Director and Staff Liaison for Mindy Agnew)

Call to Order: 7:08pm – The October 2, 2018 meeting of the Village of Oak Park Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) was called to order.

- The August 7, 2018 minutes were reviewed and discussed by the committee members.

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes as modified, Commissioner Judson seconds the motion. No Further Discussion. Motion carries.

Agenda Item: Chairperson’s Report

- Chairperson Bridge provided a recent update on the D97 Board representatives looking into costs for prospective renewable energy options for the schools. Commissioner Derks spoke about drafting a letter to the school district to include sustainability in their strategic plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Benita Robinson, a longtime resident of the Village, spoke about attending the March 2018 Environment and Energy Commission meeting to have a lighting ordinance added to the Commission’s work plan. Ms. Robinson drafted and read a letter of formal request that was distributed to the Commission about the history and reasons for her request of the ordinance. Ms. Robinson’s son also spoke and displayed brochures and campaign materials about lighting pollution from other communities.

Chris Donovan, a resident of Oak Park, spoke about local ordinances near Oak Park and distributed a packet of information to the commission. Mr. Donovan spoke about amending the energy code to include a lighting ordinance.

- Commissioners Judson, Derks, and Chairperson Bridge discussed LED lighting and other options and potential solutions. Chairperson Bridge stated he would consider adding the lighting ordinance to the work plan.

Agenda Item: Staff Report – Discussion / Action Items

John Wielebnicki, Public Works Director, spoke about the Village Board of Trustees asking Public Works to look at lighting options for safety. He spoke about the presentation with options that were presented to the Village Board, the retro fitted LED lighting on the 100-300 blocks of South Taylor Avenue and on the 100 block of South Humphrey Avenue. Survey results posted on the Village website from 55 residents was also discussed.

The Commission and Chairperson discussed the survey, the Capital Improvement Plan for installing LED lighting, energy efficiency and reducing costs, conversations with a previous Commissioner about redoing lighting, and choosing the most common and liked lighting by residents.

MOTION: Commissioner Judson presented a motion to encourage the Village Board of Trustees to proceed with the full scope of the program using the 300 kelvin-rated LED lights. Commissioner Derks seconds the motion. The Commissioners discussed the downside of moving forward, not having funds available, and about the cost of disposing the current mercury vapor lights. Motion carries.

Agenda Item: 2019 Work Plan

Commissioner Derks passed out information to the Commissioners from her work with the Field Museum about their work plan and budget as a template to make sure whatever the Commission chooses to do is effective. The Commission discussed each of the work plan items.

Agenda Item: Disposable Straws

Commissioner Morales gave an update regarding speaking with some restaurants about disposable straws and the fees related to an ordinance. He also spoke about the difference in straws from take home/out, avoiding fines, enforcement, and how to get restaurants to comply.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sally Stovall of Interfaith Green Network and longtime resident of Oak Park, spoke about previously working on the plastic bag ban and suggested making it clear to restaurants not to offer straws.

Commissioner Morales will recommend restaurants be prohibited from offering plastic straws and the specific language was sent to Mindy Agnew in a power point presentation.

Agenda Item: Green Awards Nomination Review

Commissioner Bailey spoke about the nominations received for the Green Awards. Commissioner Bailey will check with staff liaison for more nominations.

Agenda Item: Public Comment:

Bonita Robinson-Establishment of Outdoor Lighting Ordinance/2019 Work Plan
Vernon Robinson - Establishment of Outdoor Lighting Ordinance/2019 Work Plan
Chris Donovan – Lighting Ordinance
Sally Stoval – Disposable Plastic Straw recommendation

MOTION:

A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Judson and Commissioner Derks seconds the motion. No further discussion. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.