

**Village of Oak Park
Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) – Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2019**

Location: Village of Oak Park Village Hall Room 124

Attendees: Laura Derks (Chair), Lisa Boone (Commissioner), Colin Taylor (Commissioner), Stephen Morales (Commissioner), Mark Goldberg (Commissioner), Mindy Agnew (Staff Liaison), Susan Buchanan (Trustee)

Call to Order: 7:04pm – The October 1, 2019 meeting of the Village of Oak Park Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) was called to order.

Commissioner Morales motioned to approve the agenda and Commissioner Goldberg seconded – agenda is approved.

- The September 3, 2019 minutes were reviewed and discussed by the committee members.

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

Agenda Item: Chairperson’s Report

Chairperson Derks introduced herself as the new Commission Chair. She spoke about speaking to the former Chair, Nick Bridge, and her wishes for the work plan and for the Commission going forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Deb Fenwick spoke about this being her first Commission meeting she’s attended. She spoke about her content with all the initiatives the Village is taken and spoke about the lack of businesses nominated for green awards. Ms. Fenwick spoke about businesses she uses that are housed in residential buildings that are not recycling. She spoke about her feelings on room for improving multifamily and business recycling and asked about availability of baseline data for commercial entities. Ms. Fenwick stated she is aware of the initiatives in Downtown Oak Park and would like to see more going forward for other businesses and feels there should be a new sustainability plan that includes businesses being held accountable.

Commissioner Morales addressed Ms. Fenwick’s questions and spoke about his experience with a new business and questioned whether the focus should be on changing the mindset of current businesses or incoming businesses.

Agenda Item: Staff Report – Discussion / Action Items

Mindy Agnew, Staff Liaison, stated the Commission’s work plan needs to be completed at tonight’s meeting. Commissioner Goldberg asked how the work plan is done and if it can be changed to be more workable. Chair Derks explained her understanding of the work plan and the scope of what the Commission is to do that is approved by the Village Board. Trustee Buchanan also asked about public education and if that limits the Commission to suggest as opposed to require. Commissioner Taylor responded.

Agenda Item: 2019 Work Plan discussion

Chair Derks spoke about discussing adding a requirement that businesses and public entities report their energy consumption annually and spoke of other communities currently reporting. Commissioner Goldberg and Taylor spoke about the metrics involved and what enabling language could be used. Including how the City of Chicago and Evanston currently do this for their commercial and public buildings through Energy Star Portfolio and how reports are done.

Chair Derks and the Commission discussed getting more information about the sustainability fund, how much the Board has approved, and obtaining a report monthly, even if it is a standing item on the meeting agenda to the work plan.

Commissioners also discussed adding a recommendation for a ban on styrofoam for businesses, having labels for bins and more effective communication on what goes in where. It was also suggested holding businesses more accountable for recycling and how Pete's, for example, is charging for plastic bags and wondered who is following up with businesses to make sure they are charging correctly and possibly charging a penalty to businesses that aren't. Adding exploring effectiveness of the single bag use fee with businesses and composting with multi-family buildings. Commissioner Goldberg spoke about a dedicated green newsletter and Mindy suggested using landing page as something easy to update but that every department in the Village does try to add sustainability information in every publication of the OP/FYI newsletter for residents. Ways to report additional sustainability content was also discussed as well as the Commission previously discussing visiting a recycling center. Chair Derks said they should add review and recommend ways to improve recycling information for residents.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the 2020 work plan with changes made at tonight's meeting by Commissioner Goldberg and Commissioner Morales seconds the motion. No further discussion. Motion carries.

Agenda Item: Green Awards coordination for 2019

Commissioner Goldberg will be working on the Green Awards for this year. The deadline for nominations is the end of October but there are no nominations as of yet.

Agenda Item: Single Use Plastics recommendation to the Board discussion

There was a resolution passed at the last meeting for single use plastics and the next step is for Staff Liaison Mindy Agnew to draft a summary for the Board. If any additional feedback needs to be added, it needs to be sent in right away. Commissioner Boone spoke about potentially adding penalties. The Commission discussed getting additional language and more detailed information on single use plastics and styrofoam for the next meeting and waiting to approve it or move forward with the current language.

Commissioner Goldberg asked about businesses that could be nominated for Green Awards such as plastic free July stakeholders and possibly Farmer's Market volunteers. It was also asked if anyone in the Village that might go above and beyond running or working with the Village composting program could be nominated. Another suggestion was possibly finding someone that had a solar installation in the last 12 months. Chair Derks spoke about a person that has solar installed including a solar powered lawn mower at East Avenue and Superior Street who could be a potential candidate.

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Morales seconds the motion. No further discussion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:22p.m.