

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes December 7, 2021

Conducted Remotely

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

Commission Members Absent: Lisa Boone.

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

Guest Presenters Present: GRaEF Consultants Brianna Fiorillo and Sarah Walwema.

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 one suggested revision and it was unanimously approved with none opposed.
4. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
5. **Agenda Items:**
 - **Chair/Staff Liaison Report:**
 - Chairperson Derks wrote a letter of support for the ResCorp building on Austin Blvd. and encourages commission members to watch the Plan Commission meeting recordings.
 - Chairperson Derks makes a motion to revise the agenda and move item 11 (Gas Leaf Blower advocacy information review) up to number 8 (after S/CARP Climate Planning Update) because Stephen Morales will be leaving the meeting early. The motion is unanimously approved with none opposed.
 - Mindy Agnew does not have a staff liaison update.
 - **S/CARP Climate Planning Update – Consultant GRaEF: review of the interactive website and community DIY promotional kit.**
 - Marcella Bondie Keenan introduces the GRaEF team and gives a brief overview of the status of the DIY meeting kit.

- Brianna Fiorillo is a planner with GRaEF based out of the Milwaukee office. Sarah Walwema is a planner with GRaEF based out of the Chicago office.
- Sarah Walwema begins to go through the Climate Plan website starting with the homepage, and explains that the site is navigable without a mouse and is written at a third-grade reading level.
- Sarah Walwema continues on to explain the engagement tools on the website. The budget game encourages people to express what kind of investments should be made in regards to sustainability. The Better Homes, Better Planet campaign is linked to highlight the Village's energy efficiency programs.
- Chairperson Derks expresses that the photos on the site should show Oak Park residents taking action against climate change.
- Sarah Walwema continues on to walk through the map tool and its pin function. The tabs on the map represent the subjects in the plan and encourage residents to leave comments. The comment categories are strengths, hazards, solutions, and affordability. The website and the DIY Meeting Kit are strongly connected.
- The community survey tool provides another opportunity for feedback. There is also a calendar of events and timeline of the planning process. At the bottom of the website there are links to previous sustainability efforts, a Q&A section, and contact information.
- The main goal of the website is to build the resources that people need to become more educated and get involved in climate change efforts.
- Chairperson Derks asks if both the Climate Plan website and the Better Homes, Better Planet website are linked on the Village website? Sarah Walwema confirms yes, these links do exist on the Village website.
- Stephen Morales suggests that there should be a spot on the website to request a "Climate Plan ambassador" to host or be present at a DIY meeting. Sarah Walwema agrees with the idea and will work with sustainability coordinators to find a place for it on the site.
- Marcella Bondie Keenan reiterates the deadline of December 22, 2021 for feedback on the website and DIY kit.
- Chairperson Derks states that she is testing out the DIY kit with the Interfaith Green Network men's group, she asks how involved she should be in the meeting? Sarah Walwema says she should be present at the meeting, but best not to facilitate.
- Sarah Walwema begins to walk through the DIY Meeting Kit. She states that the final design will be more visually exciting, but right now the focus is on content.
- The toolkit is able to be completed offline and printed copies of the kit will be available at public libraries.
- All of the discussion topics begin with a background section and a list of local community resources.
- Brianna Fiorillo clarifies that like the website, the DIY kit is also written at a third-grade reading level.

- Discussion questions in the kit are broken into the same categories as the comments on the map tool (strengths, hazards, affordability, solutions).
 - Chairperson Derks asks how discussion topics should be decided for each meeting? Marcella Bondie Keenan recommends asking community members about their interests as they are invited to the meeting. Sarah Walwema will brainstorm with the GRaEF team ways to make this more explicit in the kit introduction.
 - Sarah Walwema states that an additional beta test will be conducted through a youth group with Seven Generations Ahead. Brianna Fiorillo offers GRaEF's support if anyone else is interested in testing the kit.
- **Gas Leaf Blower advocacy information overview:**
 - Chairperson Derks gives some background about the topic of gas-powered leaf blowers and the recent meeting she and Marcella Bondie Keenan attended about how other communities are addressing the issue. Oak Park currently has an ordinance but it is not enforced.
 - Stephen Morales suggests that Oak Park is still in the educational phase. Glencoe and Glenview are good examples for Oak Park to reference regarding resident education and he recommends watching the meeting recordings for more information.
 - Colin Taylor asks about the Oak Park ordinance, why does the ordinance end in October when that is the time when residents would most likely need to use a leaf blower? Is this common? Stephen Morales answers that there are many approaches and exemptions depending on education levels and infrastructure.
 - Stephen Morales departs for the remainder of the meeting and is not included any discussion or votes past this point.
 - Chairperson Derks continues to clarify that enforcement is difficult across municipalities.
 - The Board is asking the EEC for a recommendation. Chairperson Derks suggests staff involvement in the policy discussion and moving up the timeline. Colin Taylor agrees and suggests starting with amending the date restrictions of the current ban. Chairperson Derks suggests the possibility of using sustainability funds to help smaller landscaping companies buy more environmentally friendly equipment.
 - **2022 Work Plan:**
 - Mindy Agnew shares the 2022 workplan document and begins working with commissioners to fill in the timeframes. She clarifies that the project timeframes are used to report on accomplishments and accountability.
 - After the timeframes are decided, Chairperson Derks makes a motion to approve the 2022 workplan. It is seconded and unanimously approved with none opposed.
 - **2021 Green Awards Nominations:**

- Since there are 8 awards and 8 commissioners, it is decided that each commissioner will announce one award.
- There is a general consensus on the virtual format, next step is to make the presentation.
- **New Business:**
 - No new business.
- 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 January 11, 2022 at 5:30pm.