

Village of Oak Park Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) – Meeting Minutes MARCH 5, 2019

Location: Village of Oak Park Village Hall, Room 124 7-8:30 p.m.

Attendees: Nick Bridge (Chair), Lisa Boone (Commissioner), Stephen Morales (Commissioner), Elizabeth Judson (Commissioner), Laura Derks (Commissioner), Colin Taylor (Commissioner), Mark Goldberg (Commissioner), Scott Friesen (Commissioner), Mindy Agnew (Staff Liaison)

Call to Order: 7:00pm – Nick Bridge (Chair) called the March 5 meeting of the Village of Oak Park Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) to order.

Nick Bridge (Chair) invited comment and review of the meeting minutes of January 8th. Seeing no objection a motion was made to approve the minutes. Commissioner Scott Friesen seconds the motion.

The Chair welcomed the new commissioners; Lisa Boone, Mark Goldberg and Colin Taylor. Nick Bridge announced he would be leaving the Commission after seven years of service.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident Chris Donovan objected to the omission of a residential outdoor lighting policy from the 2019 EEC Work Plan. Ensuing discussion explained that the Board approved removal items from the plan based on the noted explanation. Policy decisions are made by the Village Board. The commission is an advisory body and does not do enforcement or legislation.

Discussion included speculation that a lighting policy would be the concern of another Village department or commission. Several commissioners inquired about the chronology and outcome of the Robinsons' lighting matter. Mindy Agnew offered to request the information from Village Staff.

Residents Bonita Robinson and her son discussed personal experiences with light pollution. Residents presented concerns that light pollution was a health issue and a Village wide concern. Residents observed a change in the Village culture leading to a less "neighborly" community. They noted observing a problem with structural expansion of many homes. Standardized policy governing residential lighting is needed.

Scott Friesen (commissioner) said that some applicable ordinances are in place. Residents stated that Village enforcement was inadequate.

Nick Bridge (Chair) recollected a referral of this lighting matter to the Village of Oak Park's Community Relations department. Residents indicated that the referral did not work out and sought a more robust response from the Village and office of Community Relations.

Scott Pohlman (resident), a software developer, presented his on-line product aimed at assisting homeowners with energy audits and methods for greener home energy. "Home Stewardship Initiative" suggested his software could be adapted by the Village of Oak Park on behalf of all residents.

Laura Derks (Commissioner), suggested that Scott Pohlman could offer information at Village events; Earth Day, Day in our Village, etc.

STAFF REPORT:

Mindy Agnew (Staff) demonstrated the use of VOP YouTube Channel “Get Your Green On” video clips as an entertaining and interactive strategy for education and outreach related to sustainability in the Village. 2019 Green Award recipients are also highlighted.

Mindy Agnew (Staff) presented major Village Events as primary opportunities for outreach and education. Mindy encouraged volunteerism and family involvement in support of targeted events.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Stephen Morales (Commissioner) opened discussion of the elimination of single use plastic straws. Commission members have some confusion about the Board’s needs regarding the “paper straw proposal”. What different information is needed?

Discussion to develop a budget request regarding materials and collaterals (ie. stainless steel straws) for community education. (Commissioners Laura Derks, Stephen Morales, Elizabeth Judson)

Nick Bridge (Chair) suggested that OPRF Chamber of Commerce and DTOP be given a presentation on Green Business Practices.

Nick Bridge (Chair) notes he attended presentations to District 97 and District 200 on Solar array opportunities.

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Morales and Commissioner Friesen seconds the motion. No further discussion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.