

Village of Oak Park
Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) – Meeting Minutes as modified on August 6, 2019
July 2, 2019

Location: Village of Oak Park Village Hall Room 124

Attendees: Nick Bridge (Chair), Stephen Morales (Commissioner), Elizabeth Judson (Commissioner), Lisa Boone (Commissioner), Colin Taylor (Commissioner), Mark Goldberg (Commissioner), Laura Derks (Commissioner), Scott Friesen (Commissioner), Mindy Agnew (Staff Liaison), Arti Walker-Peddakotla (Trustee Liaison), Susan Buchanan (Trustee)

Call to Order: 7:15pm – The July 2, 2019 meeting of the Village of Oak Park Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) was called to order.

- The June 11, 2019 minutes were reviewed and discussed by the committee members.

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

Agenda Item: Chairperson’s Report

Chairperson Bridge added a discussion regarding the Community Energy Portfolio to the agenda. Chairperson Bridge spoke about his previous discussion of the number of people with solar installations and reported there are currently 60 people. Chairperson Bridge encouraged Commissioners to make next Village Board of Trustees meeting for recognition of Sally Stovall.

Chairperson Bridge changed the agenda to have the Energy Initiatives Update discussion immediately follow the Staff Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Julie Samuels passed out her questions and comments to the Commission regarding actions of the Commissions. Ms. Samuels inquired about the Commission work plan, the Trustee Liaison, collaboration with other Commissions, spraying for West Nile Virus, and developing an environmental protection plan.

Carol Smith also passed out a form to the Commission outlining her comments and questions. Ms. Smith outlined her comments on reducing climate change versus solar energy, supporting local healthy food production, water getting back to the earth, and looking at local waste and compost and numbers for recycling. She also spoke about landscape contractors having to apply for work permits, notifying adjacent properties of pesticide use, and making sure they know proper tree care as well as developing a sustainability forum for residents.

Agenda Item: Staff Report – Discussion / Action Items

Mindy Agnew, Staff Liaison, spoke about the history of the Commission appealing to the Village Board regarding joining the global program for Plastics Free July. The Plastics Free July initiative has grown from the Farmer’s Market participation to restaurant only participation. Participation kits have been given to participating restaurants, and further information can be found on the Village website. Mindy showed the Commission the video produced by Joe Kreml, the Media Production Manager, promoting Plastics Free July and spoke about pledges and the vendors at Farmer’s Market only using compostable bags. A brief discussion took place about compiling photos and pledges for a count of total pledges/participants, currently estimated at over 500 Villagers.

Agenda Item: Energy Initiatives Update discussion

Chairperson Bridge asked about the updates for the document Mindy prepared and funding for the solar canopy going in the Village Hall parking lot. Discussion continued on how the Park District received program funding for solar energy, the current aggregation agreement, and getting adequate notification before Commission agenda items go before the

Village Board. There was further discussion between the Commission and the solar consultant regarding power purchasing agreements versus leasing, community scale solar, existing residential utility programs, and getting an update on exactly what community scale solar is.

Agenda Item: 2019 Work Flow discussion

Item moved to next meeting due to time of discussion of Energy Initiatives update.

Commission Morales would like to discuss composting at multifamily buildings at next meeting. Commissioner Derks stated there needs to be labels on carts to eliminate confusion.

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Boone and Commissioner Friesen seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.