

Village of Oak Park
Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) – Meeting Minutes *changes from 9/3/2019 meeting*
August 6, 2019

Location: Village of Oak Park Village Hall Room 124

Attendees: Nick Bridge (Chair), Stephen Morales (Commissioner), Mark Goldberg (Commissioner), Townsend Bailey (Commissioner), Elizabeth Judson (Commissioner), Mindy Agnew (Staff Liaison)

Absent; Lisa Boone (Commissioner), Laura Derks (Commissioner), Scott Friesen (Commissioner), Colin Hughes Taylor (Commissioner)

Call to Order: 7:10pm – The August 6, 2019 meeting of the Village of Oak Park Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) was called to order.

- Mindy Agnew distributed the agenda and minutes. The minutes of July 2, 2019 were reviewed and discussed by Committee members.

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes as modified by Commissioner Morales, Commissioner Goldberg seconded the motion. No Further Discussion. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident and retired R.N. Carrol Smith asked staff liaison Mindy Agnew to read a statement sent via email about Population Health and Public Health concerns and a Sustainable Future that covered topic information on how health and the environment are linked as it relates to traditional diets being replaced with unhealthy additives. Sustainable food supplies are a critical element to our Health as well as Climate change and its effect on vulnerable populations was an addition topic relayed.

Staff Report:

Mindy Agnew provided an overview of the Community Choice Electricity Aggregation status. The contract with Alternative Retail Energy Supplier MC Squared was extended for another 2 years with the additional service of MC2 facilitating a Community Solar Subscription opt-in program for Oak Park residents to sign up for community solar with the goal of getting to a minimum of 4,500 interested residents signed up in order to achieve a 20% goal of clean energy production into the ComEd grid that services Northern Illinois.

Agenda Item: Disposable Single-Use Plastics/Straws update

Commissioner Morales led a discussion on the Plastic-free July campaign. The Commission discussed what can be done to close out the item per the work plan. The Commission believes that an ordinance is feasible, based on other municipalities. However, the commission was unanimous that such an ordinance should not institute punitive mandates on businesses immediately. The commission discussed the idea of creating a program plan with the support of interested community members to present to the Board.

Commissioner Judson spoke on understanding the role of the ECC in developing the ordinance. The commission understood that staff and village officials actually draft the ordinance, not the EEC. Staff are then responsible for implementing how Village resources are used relative to the ordinance, not the EEC. The Commission also discussed the future possibility of expanding out the ordinance to support use of compostable packaging and discouraging use of Styrofoam.

Agenda Item: 2019 Work Flow Discussion

Chairperson Bridge alerted the Commission that the Board just added an amendment to the EEC Work Plan regarding the assistance of the Commission on Food Waste and Food Choices efforts.

Agenda Item: Green Awards Coordination for 2019

Recommendations from ECC

Discussed ensued about the upcoming Awards Dinner in December. Nominations are due in October. Commissioner Bailey was the MC last year and forwarded the Green Awards information email.

The Committee had a discussion on the possibility of multi-unit buildings composting and also the role the Village has in enforcing recycling for larger multi-unit buildings. The Commission also discussed the email from Trustee Walker-Peddakotla's prospective proposal to consider a Village-wide composting program for all businesses and larger residential and rental units.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Bailey for the ECC to proactively create a list of recommendations to be presented to the Village Board after the next ECC meeting. Commissioner Goldberg seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Morales and Commissioner Goldberg seconds the motion. No further discussion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.