

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

Location: Village of Oak Park Village Hall Room 124

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

Absent; Townsend Bailey (Commissioner), Elizabeth Judson (Commissioner)

Call to Order: 7:05pm – The September 3, 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 August 6, 2019 were reviewed and discussed by Committee members and the revisions presented by Stephen Morales were approved.

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

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT: A Farewell and Thank You to Nick Bridge for his many years of service! Nick requested adding the preparation discussion for the 2020 Work Plan to the agenda for this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Jim Walter spoke about his experience with Retail Energy Provider Clearview Energy and shared the company's marketing sheets with information about the company and suggested them for consideration for aggregation procurement opportunities. Commissioner Friesen asked for the opinion of Mark Pruitt on the company Clearview Energy, and Mark's response was that Clearview did not meet the Village criteria for larger aggregation supplier consideration. Details relating to the ICC tracking of ratings were discussed as one of the reasons.

Staff Report:

Mindy Agnew provided an overview of the Community Solar Subscription pilot and CS2 with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus status for Village facility accounts that is being presented before the Village Board this same evening.

Agenda Item: Amended work plan item of "Food Waste Awareness Week" discussion

Judy Klem of Interfaith Green Network (IGN) was consulted on the initiative. Commissioner Taylor requested details including an idea of timeline. Judy spoke about two public events IGN hosted on the topic in January and February that were well attended despite the polar vortex. The first was a film showing, "Just Eat It" and the second was a Food Waste Workshop with presentations and tabled informational resources that included the Village of Oak Park and a representative from the Environmental Protection Agency. Heightened awareness surfaced about this issue. Many from outside of Oak Park attended the event. The ask was for the EEC and the Village of Oak Park to consider supporting the effort by declaring the Week of **November 3, 2019** as the first "Village of Oak Park Food Waste Awareness Week." Many activities are planned for that week at the Main branch of the Library that will be open to the public. Additional support in the form of multimedia announcements and programming support was also requested.

Commissioner Morales suggested there be a Green Awards category for Food Waste Awareness.

MOTION: A motion to move forward with a recommendation to the Board to declare of the week of November 3, 2019 as the Village of Oak Park's Food Waste Awareness was brought forward by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Morales.

Disposable Single-Use Plastics/Straws update – Plastic Free July (PFJ)

Commissioner Boone proposed working on a ban of polystyrene foam and commissioner Derks proposed the idea of a PFJ campaign annually and starting earlier to procure additional community engagement. Chairperson Bridge opened the topic up on implementing a single-use plastic ordinance recommendation to the Board that would include polystyrene foam. Commissioner Taylor a broad and clear explanation implementation plan. Commissioner Morales commented on including a ban on single-use plastics ordinance. Commissioner Goldberg proposed the idea of recommending a incentives/rewards program for businesses that choose to become Champions of the effort.

MOTION: Chairperson Bridge moved to advise the Board and staff to pass an ordinance banning single-use plastics that include polystyrene foam for eating establishments. Commissioner Morales seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Agenda Item: 2019 Work Flow Discussion

Chairperson Bridge alerted the Commission that discussion for the 2020 Work Plan should commence. Commissioner Morales offered to capture all the discussion and any amendments to the Work Plan. Mindy Agnew will forward the current plan to work from.

Agenda Item: Green Awards Coordination for 2019

Recommendations from ECC

Reminders about the upcoming Awards Dinner in December were discussed. The website and nominations forms will be updated on the website. Nominations are due on October 30.

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