



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, May 16, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.
Tinley Park Village Hall – Kallsen Center
16250 S. Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477**

ROLL CALL

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

- Members:** Chairman Antonio Halek
Jeff Mech
Frank Markowicz
Barbara Moore
- Guest:** Aireen Arellano
Jeffery Loftus
Ryan Schereck
Louis Vician
- Absent:** Village Liaison Steve Tilton
Village Trustee Brian Younker

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by Antonio Halek at 7:07 p.m. in the Fulton Conference Room. Motion to open the meeting and approve the agenda made by Jeff Mech, seconded by Barbara Moore. Motion to approve the March 21, 2017 minutes made by Jeff Mech, seconded by Barbara Moore. Approved by voice vote.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Reports

Antonio Halek presented the budget update.

New Business:

Visitor Ryan Schereck stated he is very passionate about solar energy and renewable energy at the 183rd Street location. Started going to school and studying renewable energy. Along the way has seen tremendous opportunity at this location whether it is a solar farm or electric vehicle

charging. Going to have a transition to clean energy 2020-2050. The goal is to have 100% renewable by 2050. Most states and counties have renewable. Twenty-five states have committed to the Paris Climate Agreement to beat that mandate to cut carbon emissions by 2030.

Chicago's goal is to go 100% renewable by 2025. If we wanted to power every single home in Tinley Park it would be 350 mg. At this location it would be far less for the buildings, the village hall, the library, police department. The police department and library is adjacent to this property. As time goes on energy gets cheaper. Cheaper to go renewable. Projecting by 2022 it will be a cent per kilowatt hour. In June Cook County will be taking 200 locations to give grants to start these projects. If we can get the village to agree they will start growing grant money here. We can accommodate hundreds of electric vehicles that will be commuting, most of which plan their travels around where they can charge their vehicles. They can go to the shopping centers. No one wants to live on this land. Has found seven parking lots in the area can easily be revamped to have them solar powered. The village hall at 8,000 square feet of solar power can be all revenue.

Talked to Patrick and was told there were three options: Tinley can buy it, state can buy it, or a private company can buy it. Tinley can buy it and own it as a utility, sell the electric. Buy the panels and get the energy. Get a subscription for the panels and get energy supplied for less per kilowatt. For every building you get that is paid for by tax dollars, that is money saved. Fourteen school have flat rooftops. Even the village hall has 1500 hours of available sunlight and 8,000 square feet of rooftop for solar power. This is all revenue we are missing out on. Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, is creating a transportation system. The transportation system of the future. It goes right over us. Right off the interstate, potential highway.

Antonio Halek inquired if there would be a solar farm and charging of solar vehicles, too?

Ryan Schereck stated you could do anything you want. Suggests Stage 1 to power the library and police station because that is where you would see the first benefits from, then add vehicle charging stations. The more energy panels you can fit per square foot the more energy you would be creating. The town would be selling to the grid, would get renewable energy credits and do whatever you want with it. The town can begin selling to grid and bringing in revenue.

Barb Moore inquired how much property you are talking about.

Ryan Schereck stated as much as you want. We need to get our town to commit to 100% renewable. Trying to get out of the Paris agreement is not going to help what we are doing to our own atmosphere. We just went from 300 to 400 within five years, plants die at 800. Our population is going to 20 billion people by 2050. We are growing at a rapid rate.

Louis Vician stated they are looking at 280 acres of empty land at 183rd and Harlem. There is a huge clean-up cost due to the asbestos. If we do this type of project, clean-up costs have been substantially mitigated, covering with dirt is a lot cheaper than digging it all up and cleaning it up. Lots of the expense is cleaning up the pipes. There is a lot of legal and engineering things that need to be considered.

Barbara Moore inquired what we can/can't do with government and legal.

Ryan Schreck stated we have 5.7 million people in Cook County which is the second largest in the nation. A megawatt would cost \$250,000.00. Corner off 17 acres that could power the library and the police department. As you do Stage 1, people become aware. It would be a ripple effect. It costs \$80.00 for a panel. It would be a ripple effect of schools, other buildings with flat roofs, community solar project. Think we need to look past housing at that location. It would be grid tied to ComEd. Tinley would have a brand new revenue source. Would get renewable energy credits. Would like to set up an information booth at the Block Party to make people aware and get them to sign a petition. We have a lot of wind power, lots of the wind power facilities are owned by NRG. Lots of potential.

Louis Vician stated that at the end of the last discussion two things happened. Someone at the meeting stated that if we have more houses on this land, another school would need to be built. When Ryan gave his idea about renewable energy, the room erupted in applause and he caught Dave Niemeyer's attention. What they have proposed at these meetings so far have been at best, conventional.

Antonio Halek asked what else Tinley Park would have to install?

Ryan Schreck stated Tinley would tie in with ComEd, receive renewable energy credits, use plot of land for renewable energy, completely realistic by 2030, electrical charging of vehicles, trolleys to shopping and convention center, battery storage. We need to get the mayor to agree to 100% renewable. We have 4.3 hours of sunlight per day but you can also have battery storage. Already have homes in our town going solar. Look at cookcountyillinois.gov/service/solar energy for more information on community solar projects in Cook County. Already spoke with Mark Berger about this. He is the Illinois Solar Energy Association former president and is currently working on these solar energy projects in Cook County. Ryan stated he is still in school, he is just an advocate who sees the opportunity.

Aireen Arellano inquired what our next step would be.

Barbara Moore thinks it is a great idea. We have 283 acres of contaminated land. Taxpayers should not pay. Who wants this property? Who is putting the money out? It would be great if you could get the state of Illinois to work with us. Don't think Tinley should have to pay for the state's mistakes.

Ryan Schreck stated if Tinley wanted it their return on their investment would be much faster. Let's put ourselves on the map for the country.

Jeff Mech suggested contacting Senator Hastings. We need to do a specific proposal and zero in on it.

Antonio Halek stated we need to paint a picture with specific numbers to get people interested.

Aireen Arellano agreed staging a proposal makes it more feasible.

Ryan stated that off the highway entering Disney's Magic Kingdom is a solar farm that powers 1/3 of the park. You save money by putting solar panels on the roofs of schools, you have more money in the school.

Antonio Halek stated stages and numbers would be good to use an examples.

Frank Markowicz thinks solar storage will always be an issue.

Ryan Schreck explained that when the sun is out it is collecting energy and saving money. When the sun goes down you are back on the grid. IBEW reached out to them but does not know what companies IBEW is working with. In June they are taking locations for grants. Tinley Park solar proposal on FB has a lot of information on it. There will be 3 million plus electric vehicles in the next 5 years. Every car manufacturer has electric vehicles. Once Tesla gets the mileage above 300 they will be making 500,000 a year. Production will really be increased.

Luis Vician stated you have 75 acres with no clean-up, clean-up is the biggest cost, solar panels don't take a lot of space or clean-up to install. Can do the project in increments. For example, there is 100 acres that could be with solar panels with no clean-up. Solar panels do not take up a lot of foundation. Number one thing would be to look for 100 acres out of the 280 that does not need clean-up then look for an engineering company willing to install panels. Need to start with cost per panel using part of the land there to start this solar farm.

Jeff Mech stated we need to get Mark Berger and Senator Hastings involved. He will contact Senator Hastings and see if he can get his thoughts or find out if he even knows about this. We need to propose starting with the 100 acres.

Ryan Schreck agreed. Obtaining 100 acres and starting off powering the library and the police department because of their location. Projects are developed in the middle of nowhere and are fed to the grid.

Antonio Halek stated he would have no idea as to the various issues and concerns that an engineering firm would have.

Jeff Loftus asked how much research have been put in so far. At what point does this no longer become an EEC event but an engineering event?

Ryan Schreck stated you can look at schools on the Northside, other towns to investigate.

Barbara Moore stated we need to reach out to Brian Younker to let him know the EEC wants this so he can pass that on to the village board. We need to have a presentation, this is fantastic. We do not need any more residential. We should not wait for the board to decide on the mental

health center. Proceed with this idea. Need to show all the benefits in just that area and show that it is an enhancement.

Old/Ongoing Business:

EWorks Site Visit, June 2nd

Antonio Halek reminded everyone interested in attending the site visit to EWorks in Elk Grove Village on June 2nd.

Idle-Free

Antonio Halek stated there would be a \$333.00 charge for an ad in the *Junction* to advertise Idle-Free.

Barbara Moore suggested a press release instead. Do a write up with some good pictures and the paper will usually print the write up in the paper.

Jeff Mech suggested contacting the superintendent about the school not abiding by our signs. The signs are up but feels like the school is not during their part in participating in Idle Free and wants to see the school enforce the idea more. He will send an email.

Spring Clean-up 2018

Antonio Halek ordered more rockers and will deliver to the Boy Scout meetings.

Motion was made by Frank Markowicz, seconded by Barbara Moore to have next year's Spring Clean-up held on April 21, 2018.

Jeff Lotus would like to see a continuation of work for the school's Green Team and Earth week.

Aileen Arellano thought it was very encouraging to see the posters made by the kids on display at the village hall. Also very encouraging to see so many people coming out despite the cold and rainy weather.

Jeff Loftus inquired about reaching out to rain barrel vendors to see if they have a display they would give us.

Antonio Halek thought it would be a great idea to have a working rain barrel and have the kids' water plants with the rain barrel being displayed.

Jeff Mech stated we all need to consider the 100% renewable when renewing our electricity contract. Jeff also stated Steve Tilton will be missed. He was always very receptive to our ideas.

Receive Comments from the Public

Ryan Schreck gave his presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

Good of the Order

Antonio Halek stated that Aireen Arellano and Jeff Loftus are waiting to see if they will be sworn in as commissioners by the mayor. If Ryan Schereck is interested, he needs to apply.

Antonio Halek asked if we should consider moving the meeting to 7:30. Barbara Moore stated that our meeting is always at the same time as a board meeting and our trustee is never at our EEC meetings. It would be nice for him to be able to attend and help the EEC as he is supposed to. Antonio Halek stated that we will keep the meeting at 7:00 for now.

Adjournment

Frank Markowicz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeff Mech. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

/dmp