



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission  
Tuesday, July 18, 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:** Jeff Mech  
Frank Markowicz  
Village Trustee Brian Younker (left at 7:30)
- Guests:** Aireen Arellano  
Jeffery Loftus
- Absent:** Chairman Antonio Halek

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by Jeff Mech at 7:02 p.m. in the Fulton Conference Room. Motion to open the meeting and approve the agenda made by Jeff Mech, seconded by Frank Markowicz. Motion to approve the May 16, 2017 minutes made by Frank Markowicz, seconded by Jeff Mech. Approved by voice vote.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**Reports**

No budget report in Antonio Halek's absence.

**Old/Ongoing Business:**

**Solar Farm**

Jeff Mech asked Brian Younker about his thoughts on the solar farm. Brian Younker stated they are waiting for response from the state as to contamination and what it costs, etc. Should know something within 60 days. They pay about \$350-385,000 a year for maintenance on the property, only cut the grass a couple of times a year, and have 24 hour security. Property was a dumping ground for IDOT for years, don't know what is out there. Tinley has right of first refusal and then the state will put it up for sale if Tinley doesn't want it. One or two more public

hearings will be scheduled. Does not want to see the village buy it at all, thinks it's the state's responsibility for clean-up. Unless we can find a developer to take over the costs it would not be advisable to purchase. There are a lot of unanswered questions. Costs keep going up. Board is open to hearing anything. Not even a consensus as to buying it, let alone what to put there.

Jeff Mech thinks the EEC will be more involved. Feels like EEC can be help. Loves the idea of a solar farm at the property. The proximity to I-80 for the vehicle charging station makes a lot of sense.

Brian Younker asked if we know how many charging stations we have in Tinley.

Frank Markowicz stated there are some at 191<sup>st</sup> Street in the Kohl's parking lot but more are needed.

Jeff Mech would like to see 100 of the 280 acres converted to a solar farm and electric charging stations.

Frank Markowicz stated we would have a sign on I-80 to let drivers know about the charging stations available off of I-80 to bring people in.

Brian Younker said the EEC should keep looking at it and let them know.

Frank Markowicz thinks 100 acres is too much to ask for with the solar farm.

Jeff Mech thinks we should go big or go home. We can always renegotiate size later. Part of the 100 acres would be the charging station. Next month we will get an official vote after the new members are official. After we take this vote I will send an email to Brian Younker, the mayor and the clerk and ask for a follow-up to our vote.

Jeff Mech stated there are two parts to the solar farm: 1) where does this energy go to?  
2) How does Tinley Park benefit from it economically? Simplest would be sell back to the grid and Tinley Park residents get the benefit because of that. Let's be open with a meeting with Al Reilly because Hastings already knows about it. We need to do a specific proposal and zero in on it.

Aileen stated the initiatives would be putting out what other surrounds towns are doing and not be left behind.

### **EWorks Site Visit, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Brian Younker stated he has had great experience with Eworks, looking to open 5days a week, purchase coupon for \$25 or \$35 for large monitors and/or televisions to be recycled. Eworks would provide the staff and a percentage of the money goes to the disabled. They come out for no cost.

Aileen Arellano stated we need to figure out the logistics. Thought about starting out on a weekday but if it is going to be a huge success, maybe we need to have a weekend. We can have our own people load the truck or hire someone from Eworks at \$8.00 an hour. It all depends on when Eworks is available. They have the semi-trucks, the facilities, the staff, etc.

Jeffrey Loftus stated that the amount of events Eworks has done is incredible. Surprised at how much they can move through the area. Also have a huge area to dismantle. Eworks is also starting to shred bulbs on site.

Brian Younker stated there is no way to have the TVs recycled and/or a way to print out the coupon at our present location. Thinks we need more schools to help out with volunteers that need service hours to help with moving the TVs. The cost helps nonprofit disabled organizations. He will check with Public Works and look for a location to have the collection on a Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Jeff Mech stated that Tinley could have a once a year pick up for televisions pick-ups and the ability to dispose of it properly through the garbage contract.

Brian Younker explained the garbage contract is up for renewal. Any items regarding recycling and electronics needs to be put into the RFP at least as an option. The EEC should pass on any ideas to him for consideration.

Brian Younker stated that under the current contract, condo and townhomes are exempt from recycling. The ordinance has to be incorporated into the condo and townhome organization for recycling. It might be cost effective to have one bin placed at an association, such as the Pines, for people that wish to recycle. He asked if the EEC could put a note together as to what we need to see in the garbage contract as it is up for renewal this year.

Jeff Mech would like to see recycling be mandatory in the long-term for everyone.

Jeff Mech suggested opening up the 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue recycling spot again and to have all townhomes and condos recycle.

Jeff Mech suggested having a meeting with Senator Hastings and/or Senator Al Reilly and pitch the idea to them. Tinley has 3 state senators and 2 representatives. Need to get state senators and representatives behind the idea. It will be crucial to win over the general public on this and get the state senators and the representatives behind it. Ryan Schereck can talk to them as well.

Frank Markowicz agreed we need to speak with the senators as the property is state owned. Brian Younker had a good point. One side is Cook County, the other side is Will County and that makes a big difference in tax base.

Jeff Mech explained that in December of 2016 the Clerk Jobs Bill was passed. Illinois voted to make an investment in clean energy and produce jobs. It is the Future Energy Jobs Act. The state has to find ways to do clean energy. The state can work with the VOTP and pay the VOTP.

Frank Markowicz stated it would be a return on an investment as are the LEDs on 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Need to include how many years before we see a return.

Aileen suggested we gather all pros/cons and go from there.

Frank stated we need to wait for certain things to happen and in a certain order before we move forward.

### **Block Party**

Aileen Arellano and Jeffery Loftus attended the Tinley Park Block Party with Ryan Schereck. They had a good turn-out. If nothing else, it showed that the EEC exists, many people were delighted that we have the recycling program that we do, many condo owners are disappointed that their condo does not recycle. Many residents are frustrated about no recycling in condos and townhomes. Put together a couple of displays to have on the table. Ryan brought a sound system and had the solar charger giveaway. He was a great addition and help in the booth.

Jeffery Loftus explained to those visiting the booth that the home owner's association needs to vote on it and have recycling included in their garbage.

Aileen Arellano stated that Ryan Schereck had 5 mini-solar chargers to be given away at the Block Party every hour on the hour. People came over to participate in the free raffle. Had environmental trivia.

### **Electrical Aggregation**

Jeff Mech stated we need to get approval on electrical aggregation and wording to spread the word in the EEC flyers and at village events. We need 100% renewal, support existing wind and solar and renewable energy credits. He prepared a flyer that can be distributed but it needs to be approved by legal. The flyer gives all the information, who to call, etc. Dates and company names has been updated but the wording from prior flyers has stayed the same. After approval Aileen will complete with some graphics.

Frank Markowicz stated he called the company to ask about the 100% renewable and could not get a straight answer from anyone he spoke to. They need to have more definite answers so the public understands.

### **New Business: Commissioners**

Jeff Mech stated that the EEC will have two new commissioners sworn in this evening at the Village Board meeting.

**Receive Comments from the Public**

No comments, no public.

**Good of the Order**

Jeff Mech summarized that the EEC has a lot of work to do. The EEC should prepare a proposal for Brian Younker regarding the Mental Health Area Center. Also, the EEC needs to prepare a proposal for the new garbage/recycling contract. He will also check with Antonio Halek regarding the Eworks event in October.

Jeff Mech reminded everyone that the EEC will be participating in Bio Blitz on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment**

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

/dmp