



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, July 19, 2016 - 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
Lucas Engel
Beth Mikula
Paul Mikula
Michelle Ayala

Associates: Barbara Moore
Kerri Roiniotis

Absent: Adam James
Frank Markowicz
Jeff Mech
Village Liaison Steve Tilton
Village Trustee Brian Younker

Visitor: Lindsay Birt, Watershed Coordinator, Huff & Huff

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by Antonio Halek 7:06 p.m. in the Fulton Conference Room. Motion to open the meeting made by Michelle Ayala, seconded by Beth Mikula. Motion to approve the Agenda made by Michelle Ayala, seconded by Beth Mikula. Motion to approve the May 17, 2016 minutes made by Michelle Ayala, seconded by Barbara Moore. Approved by voice vote.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Reports

Antonio Halek updated everyone on the budget.

New Business:

Antonio Halek reported that the MWRD provided 200 free Pin Oak tree samplings to the EEC for distribution and planting. These samplings were distributed at the Tinley Park Farmer's Marker and went quickly.

Lucas Engle reported there have been sightings of the Chinese long-horn beetle in a small portion of Cook County and DuPage County. Can complete their life cycle in 24 species of trees. These beetles are dark brown/black. The gypsy moths are also very bad this year and mostly attack Oaks. Barbara Moore suggested putting this information on our website to notify the public about these new dangers.

Funding/Grant Opportunities

Antonio Halek asked Adam James to look into grant funding. There is a lot of work involved and it is a very complicated process.

New E-Waste Program

NuWay has started a new E-Waste program. They will collect and recycle your electronics for a \$25.00 per item fee. You must call to schedule a pick-up. This will be curbside pick-ups.

CNG Public Fueling Station

There is a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, July 21st at the Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station of NuWay if anyone would like to attend.

Bio Blitz

Antonio Halek reminded everyone that the Bio Blitz event will be held on September 10th.

Visitors/Presentations:

Bio Blitz presentation was given by Lindsay Birt from the Hickory Creek Watershed and Huff & Huff. This year's event is scheduled for September 10, 2016 at five different locations. Tinley Park EEC was one of the original host sponsors of Bio Blitz when this started three years ago. Thanks Tinley Park for helping to get this started. Have had sustainability and high school teachers have kept in contact. Excited to have Tinley Park hosting a site location again this year. Of those 12 municipalities, eight are actively involved. The theme is to be proactive rather than reactive. Hickory Creek Bio Blitz and the Watershed covers 67 square miles and 12 municipalities. Illinois American Water has been involved. All of our streams including Union Ditch, Eastbranch, and Molly etc. are impaired, on the Illinois EPA 303D list meaning the water ways are impaired for some specific pollutants. None of the streams are identified as having a total maximum load. Ms. Birt stated that Hickory Creek is impaired with pollutants but not at a maximum where the Illinois EPA would come in. Continuously doing IEPA monitoring plan, identifies with someone who is already doing sampling and train them to do sampling for the Watershed group. Have numerous data points for our Watershed. Summer weekly sampling of E.coli. It is important to keep up with the in-stream monitoring of the water quality. The Hickory Creek Watershed works with various public works departments to train them to collect samples. The public is also invited to participate. Monthly samplings are taken during the winter months and weekly samplings are taken during summer months. The Watershed pays for all lab costs related to the testing. Work with the community to get volunteers to do the samples.

Bio Blitz part of the charge is to reduce pollution and improve storm water quality and volume. Has to document some engagement with the public. There is an increase in volume and an increase in public awareness. Tinley Park is an MS4. This means there has to be a documented public outreach. Team up with trained biologists, get in the stream with the waders, collect macro vertebrae, bring them on the stream banks, and sort the macro vertebrae. This is all to understand the quality of our water. Take samples back to Huff & Huff and test to see if the samples fall under the protocol.

Bio Blitz was created to educate the public on water quality and have data over time to track performance. Trained biologists collect micro vertebrae for testing. The end goal is to educate the public and have data to implement. The hope is to take the public outreach to the next level. We normally work with public works departments and are currently working with Orland Park on an abandoned parcel restoration (a 319 grant). A maximum of \$50,000.00 is given to identify projects. In-stream water quality testing has been ongoing since 2012 via public works departments. The Watershed is looking to expand into existing land such as in New Lenox with Phase I, II and III. Also looking to expand into Joliet.

Lucas Engle asked if this runs through any part of Cook County.

Lindsay Birt said it does and Will County, too. Cook County has a land bank website that identifies abandoned parcels and critical concerns. We do in stream water quality testing through the public works departments and then we do the Bio Blitz. The in stream water quality testing has been done since 2012, the Bio Blitz for three years. Both do reports and how to enhance the locations.

Antonio Halek asked how this could be considered a viable project to bring Hickory Creek on board. This would include new construction projects and parking lots. Lindsay Birt stated that the developers are working with the city and making recommendations that they talk with Hickory Creek. If it's not spelled out in the local codes for them to do this, they may not want to do it. Give us a call and see how we can work together. Tinley Park is required to do public outreach to apply for MPS Permits. Give us a call and we can work together for public outreach. Love to work with environmental commissions in the future so we can see how we can leverage outreach.

Lindsay Birt explained you need to ask how you could enhance the storm water projects. Identify hundreds of potential projects. The board decided that if a community is interested and eligible for the funding sources we are seeking, as soon as you have an idea, no matter how big or how small, give us a call to see if we can help with the project. Watershed plan does make recommendations of code but the Watershed group does not do enforcements, they do education and provide the resources. What is going on with policy, how can that impact their community down the line? Direct Salt applications on roads – direct chloride into streams. Studies have shown that it depends on the temperature of pavement as to how much should be applied? If there is a slurry mixture, it allows for the salt to adhere to the street and sidewalk and stick to the pavement. Slurry mixture – beat juice mixed with salt. Provide educational material as to how much you need to apply. Can also be applied to sidewalks and driveways. Can be stored in a large detergent bottle. Plowing before application will bring up some of the snow and

ice and then you can apply less salt. There is a survey every year and reported at annual meeting as to salt use. Break down that science so they understand the process.

Old/Ongoing Business:

MWRD Paperwork

Antonio Halek stated there is a backlog of requests for water barrels and the EEC will hold off on flyers for now. Possibly only distribute flyers to schools for the virtual backpacks.

Earth/Environment Flag

Barbara Moore made a motion to eliminate the large Earth/Environment Flag and purchase smaller ones to raffle off at EEC events. Motion was seconded by Paul Mikula, all in favor.

Idle Free

Antonio Halek emailed District 140 confirming the three schools will be receiving signs. Antonio will confirm the signs have been completed and will also remind them about the rain barrels.

On-Site Visits

Antonio Halek would like to have information put in the virtual backpacks to encourage students to attend the visits. NuWay is always open to visits and we can go as often as we would like.

Communication with Clerk's Office

Antonio Halek stated that residents are upset that there is no place for them to bring electronics. He provided emails and websites to the clerk's office to pass on information to residents calling in for information. Residents will be directed to contact NuWay.

Antonio Halek also spoke with Jason Freeman who said that ComEd is picking up refrigerators and freezers for recycling. This is a free pick-up and the appliances can be working or not.

Good of the Order

National Night Out

Antonio Halek reminded everyone about the National Night Out event held at the train station on Tuesday, August 2nd, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Barbara Moore also distributed information for anyone interested in attending the Police Citizens Academy. Limited to 25 people for 12 weeks. Great opportunity to learn what our police do to protect us and get a feel for what they go through to protect us.

Paul Mikula made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michelle Ayala. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.