



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, August 15, 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
Aireen Arellano
Jeffery Loftus

Absent: Village Trustee Brian Younker

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by Antonio Halek at 7:02 p.m. in the Fulton Conference Room. Motion to open the meeting and approve the agenda made by Aireen Arellano, seconded by Frank Markowicz. Motion to approve the July 18, 2017 minutes made by Frank Markowicz, seconded by Jeffery Loftus. Approved by voice vote.

Correspondence

No correspondence. Antonio Halek congratulated the newest commissioners, Aireen Arellano and Jeffery Loftus.

Reports

No budget report.

Old/Ongoing Business:

Solar Farm

Jeff Mech stated that the EEC wants to take an official vote.

Aireen Arellano stated that we are all aligned and in agreement regarding the solar farm. Ryan is invaluable, he has a lot of compelling arguments for it which would really strengthen our position.

Antonio Halek stated we will entertain a motion to support and take a stance on solar proposal. Motion made by Frank Markowicz to support the solar proposal, seconded by Jeff Mech. All in favor.

- Vote for 'Solar Proposal' at the TPMHC site (per Antonio's approval). “Do you (EEC members) support installing a solar panel farm and an EV charging station, taking advantage of the proximity to I-80, on 100 of the 280 acres at the Tinley Park Mental Health Center site?” All Commissioners agreeable to entertaining a vote.

Frank Markowicz thinks we can be more flexible about the hundred acres. Thinks it is a lot of land. Jeff Mech thinks that if we go high they can always talk us down. Frank Markowicz thinks we should make it more negotiable so that we can get something out of the deal. Aireen Arellano agreed that something is better than nothing. Jeff Mech stated that sizeable to them might be five acres.

Aireen Arellano thinks 50-100 is fair. Frank Markowicz thinks 100 might scare people off, don't know if it's feasible. Jeff Mech is ok with 50-100 but still likes the 100 better. This makes us sound strong. We want this to be big. This is a proposal, don't think it will scare people off at this point.

Antonio Halek explained that the proposal will be sent to Brian Younker and then it has to be proposed.

Jeff Mech explained to keep in mind too that it is not just a solar farm but also the electrical charging stations, utility roads, lines to be serviced, etc. Out of the 100 acres it might only be 45 acres for the solar panels.

Frank Markowicz stated that Brian Younker had a good point on development for that area. Across the street is Will County and the tax base is much different. Maybe we can attract more business by making it a TIF district or have different taxes.

Aireen Arellano suggested changing the wording to “up to 100 acres” to show we can negotiate.

Jeff Mech agreed that the wording “up to 100 acres” is better than 50 acres but still thinks we need to think big while we have the chance.

Jeffery Loftus thinks it puts a stake in that ground though. Up to 100 acres provides us with a definite idea of what is in our heads. Helps as we go down the path to proposals.

Antonio Halek thinks something to soften up the 100 acres would be better. Motion to vote on the verbiage of the 100 acres. Motion made by Jeff Mech, seconded by Frank Markowicz.

All in favor for 100 acres as stated: “Do you (EEC members) support installing a solar panel farm and an EV charging station, taking advantage of the proximity to I-80, on 100 of the 280 acres at the Tinley Park Mental Health Center site?”

Frank Markowicz stated that after further thought he is not opposed to the 100 acres.

Motion to vote on the solar proposal made by Jeff Mech, seconded by Frank Markowicz.

All in favor of the language as discussed above.

Electrical Aggregation

Jeff Mech explained we need to spread the word about it because the contract is up and the village purchased a new contract. Jeff distributed the new flyer that was approved by the village lawyer. We have permission to print copies. Thinking of printing about 100 copies to start and the format might be changed by Aireen but the wording would stay the same.

Aireen Arellano questioned where we plan on passing out these flyers.

Jeff Mech stated the flyers would be distributed at EEC events. The village did not purchase renewable like we encouraged them to but people have the option to opt in to renewable and we want to encourage them to do so. Jeff would like to see the information in *The Exchange*.

EWorks Event

Aireen Arellano stated we need to figure out the date. Dates fill up quick.

Jeffery Loftus stated that Brian Younker has been very happy with the event they had out in Orland and would like to continue the event in Tinley.

September 23rd, September 30th, or October 7th suggested dates by Antonio Halek. If those dates don't work, maybe October 14th or 15th.

Motion to host an Eworks event by Jeffery Loftus, seconded by Frank Markowicz.

Motion to hold the event on September 30th or October 1st as first choice or if not then October 14th or 15th as second choice. All in favor of those possible dates depending on EWorks availability.

Jeffery Loftus reminded everyone that they charge for the truck usage.

Antonio Halek suggested a motion to vote on the expenditure for the EWorks recycling event so we can move ahead with the event if the dates work out.

Antonio Halek made a motion to allocate \$1,000.00 of our budget towards the EWorks recycling event, seconded by Aireen Arellano. All present in agreement.

New Business:

Bio Blitz

The date is Saturday, September 16th. Anyone interested needs to register through the email listed on the agenda.

Discuss recommendations to the Tinley Park waste and recycling bid/contract

Antonio Halek stated that Homewood would pick up two TV's per year, per household, curbside. You call it in and it will be picked up at no extra charge.

Jeffery Loftus did some research into the waste/recycling contracts. He stated that Tinley's contract has been in place since 1993 and was last renewed in 2011 until 2019. Tinley has the option to cancel at any time. It was difficult to find but he found it on the website. He was able to get to the Orland contract just by googling it and using it for comparison. Some things to note would be definitions of who would be covered, multiple family residences, condos, townhomes, and things of that nature. This is what we should recommend for curbside pick-up in our contract/proposal.

Jeff Mech stated that Orland requires them to use natural fuel trucks.

Jeffery Loftus stated that when the contract was up for renewal it seemed to be an automatic renewal, bids were in line with other municipalities and felt that it was still a comparative bid.

Antonio Halek thinks there needs to be some parameters for renewal of the contract.

Jeffery Loftus thinks the village should put forth that effort to look into other companies. There are a lot of things Orland puts in their contract that we can/should look at and keep in mind for our recommendations/goals as to what else is going on in the area. The Village of Orland Park has the right to inspect the facilities at any time with notice.

Antonio Halek inquired if there was anything that Waste Management was providing to Orland that Tinley should be on the lookout for?

Jeffery Loftus stated that Waste Management has a spring clean-up that can be worked into the EEC clean-up and everyone can clean out their garage. Tinley does not have an extra fee for yard waste through NuWay.

Frank Markowicz stated that Orland has recycling for multi-units.

Jeffery Loftus said it is governed under the municipal contract unless it is over 50 units. Have to provide the recycle bins and the service.

Antonio Halek stated that is the issue we are having now, NuWay charging multi-units for recycling.

Jeffery Loftus explained the EEC needs to have the wording in the municipal contract for the multi-units. Incorporating that language into the contract increases that footprint for recycling. Also explain what can be recycled.

Aireen Arellano suggested talking to Brian Younker about these issues so that he can bring it up to the committee and counsel. Need recommendations on how we want to word it and then counsel can be edited as necessary.

Antonio Halek agreed we need to pass this by Brian Younker for verbiage and proposal. He thanks Jeffery Loftus for a great job on his research.

Jeffery Loftus stated that he did not have Tinley's current contract so he used Orland as an example for his points of discussion and see where we wanted to go with it. He will email everyone a copy of the contract along with his points and explore how he can FOIA the current Tinley contract.

Jeff Mech stated that he received a phone call from Theresa Toley regarding her living in Brookside Glen townhomes for 13 years and being a resident since 2000. Her townhome association is huge and she is upset that they do not have recycling. She called Margo McDermott, her state representative, who gave her Jeff's number and told her to talk to him. There is no recycling, residents voted down for recycling because they didn't want to pay an extra \$2.00 for recycling. She is a professor at the University of Chicago as is her husband. She is willing to get involved. Jeff Mech thinks we are ready to go to another one of these meetings to get townhomes to recycle across the board.

Antonio Halek agreed that the EEC needs to present to the board again to have something done about recycling.

Jeff Mech reiterated the need to reopen the 183rd recycling center.

Aireen Arellano stated we are just making recommendation and making sure the voices of residents are being heard.

Antonio Halek stated that we can email ideas to each other but nothing official can be decided until next meeting.

Jeffery Loftus stated that we can have an official vote placed on next month's agenda.

Receive Comments from the Public

No comments, no public.

Good of the Order

Antonio Halek stated Ryan at the park district is pretty adamant in working with us for the next spring clean-up. The park district is planning the event for next year already. We need to get together and decide on a specific date, it will be close to Earth Day.

Jeff Mech reminded everyone to make no mistake on the solar proposal that this is a very big deal. If we ever thought the EEC never got much attention this will do it for positive and negative reasons. There will be people against this. The EEC has to be ready for that. Our approach is not to defend our proposal or try to talk someone into agreeing with us. Our goal is to research, educate and work with the board. We don't have to apologize for our proposal. Jeff is going to put out an email to Brian Younker, the mayor, the clerk telling them we voted on this, we had a unanimous consent, we are going to talk to professional in the industry about this, we want to work with you on this, we are going to use all social media, etc. This will keep the EEC busy for the next few years. We need to come up with answers to questions they might have. We need to sell the economic benefits of this. We will be talking about the positive economic impact of this. Remember this is state owned property and Mike Hastings is the State Senator along with Al Reilly is our State Representative. We should be able to get an initial meeting with them easily. We need to have something prepared for this meeting.

Frank Markowicz stated they will have to find out how much it is going to cost. How much to hook up to the grid, etc. Might have to sell municipal bonds.

Jeffery Loftus stated that Orland gets credit for recycling on their contract, up to 50%.

Adjournment

Frank Markowicz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeff Mech. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

/dmp