



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, October 18, 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
Michelle Ayala
Adam James
Frank Markowicz
Jeff Mech
Beth Mikula

Absent: Lucas Engel
Paul Mikula
Barbara Moore
Kerri Roiniotis
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 7:03 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 August 16, 2016 minutes made by Jeff Mech, seconded by Frank Markowicz with revisions. Approved by voice vote.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Reports

Antonio Halek updated everyone on the budget.

New Business:

Spring Clean-up

Antonio Halek asked everyone to begin thinking about the Spring Clean-up which will be held on Earth Day, April 22nd. An article will be published in *The Exchange* to help advertise the event. We need to get the word out to volunteer groups well in advance since this year the event falls on Earth Day.

Holiday Market

Antonio Halek asked if anyone wanted to participate. He will be there to help in any way he can if anyone wants to join him. Maybe he can even talk with people about recycling. Antonio will ask and see what EEC can do.

Michelle Ayala asked if we can find out information on tree recycling and lights after the holidays and if EEC can distribute that information at the Holiday Market.

Beth Mikula asked if the village still has the Merry Mulch and if we can still recycle trees through that program with Public Works.

Federal Carbon Fee and Dividend

Jeff Mech explained the origin of this program. Frank Markowitz and Jeff Mech belong to Citizens Climate Lobby. The organization is trying to get a federal carbon fee and dividend passed. There was a push from Citizens Climate Lobby to get local endorsements from business leaders, government leaders, state reps, and community people. Late February they had a meeting with Mayor Seaman where the mayor was able to ask all his questions and he was very open about it. They had a really good discussion. Mayor Seaman contacted Jeff to present at the Committee of the Whole and Jeff and Frank gave the presentation for the carbon fee and dividend to the whole board. Clerk Rea was there and it fell into his lap as to whether the village would endorse the carbon fee and dividend. It was then placed on the Agenda but the EEC has to officially vote on it and approve it, give to our Liaison Brian Younker, and then to the village board for approval. This is a great opportunity for our village.

Adam James asked if the board is going to act on this as a resolution.

Jeff Mech stated it is non-binding, a resolution. Other towns and cities have done this. The pledge form/pitch states:

The cost of climate change including destabilizing weather patterns, rising sea levels, extreme weather events and other serious events now pose a substantial threat to the health, prosperity and security of Americans. Costs are real, they are growing, and they are already burdening businesses, tax payer's municipal budgets and families. Our economy, infrastructure and public safety and health are directly at risk. Therefore, I/we urge congress to support carbon fee and dividend as a key element to reducing climate change. Carbon fee and dividend will

significantly reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, grow the economy, save lives and protect the households from higher energy prices.

Carbon Fee and Dividend is defined as: It will place a steadily increasing fee on fossil fuels at their source - Well, mine or port of entry. Beginning at \$15.00 per ton of CO₂ admitted and increasing each year by \$10.00. All revenues will be returned in equal shares to American households as a monthly dividend. Additionally, a predictably increasing price on carbon will send a clear market signal that will unleash entrepreneurs and investors in a new clear energy economy. With all revenues returned to households in equal shares, 2/3 break even or receive more in dividends then they will incur higher living expenses thereby protecting lower and middle income Americans. And lastly, a boarder adjustment will discourage domestic businesses from relocating where they can emit more CO₂ and encourage others nations to adopt an equivalent price on carbon.

Jeff Mech explained that this group is a nonpartisan group. This is probably our only chance of getting real federal policy through that will address the magnitude of climate change. It appeals to both sides of the aisle. It will not go government at all. You will be paying more at the pump but you will be getting a dividend check in return.

Frank Markowicz explained they deal with Congress. Either side of the aisle. They would like a Republican to start the bill and be cosponsored by a Democrat. Last year we had 500 meetings with Congress in Washington, D.C. and we do that annually. We don't hold up signs. We go in with 3-5 people, ask how much time we have, show respect, gratitude and appreciation and mainly build relationships so these people remember us. Really a fast way to get carbon reduced and level playing field between fossil fuels and recyclable or renewable energy. Right now with the subsidies being given to fossil fuel industry the renewable energy is trying to compete with that. You need a lot of infrastructure and things like that done.

Jeff Mech stated this was quite a challenge. Navigating this Congress was unprecedented. Little changes are happening but it's not enough. Canada recently passed a carbon tax and it is very successful. If Tinley Park endorses this it will look really good for Tinley Park. Policy to address climate change is inevitable. If Tinley Park endorses this in a nonbinding way we will appear as a leader.

Adam James stated that it is almost like removing "government subsidies" to alternative energy industry and making it more of a market incentive to that industry.

Jeff Mech agreed. It incentives the free market, similar to cigarette tax, you can't get any more transparent than that. This would be sending all the money back to the people. Technically

speaking, Republicans and Democrats can vote for this. There are also some minor administrative costs, less than 1%.

Adam James stated this is different from a carbon tax.

Frank Markowicz explained the typical middle class person will break even.

Jeff Mech explained the Revenue Neutral Carbon Tax is not a tax and the government is not spending it. People should be able to vote for it in theory but whether they will or not is what we need to work on.

Frank Markowicz stated there will be an expense regarding paper checks or direct deposit. The cost for administration will stay the same in the long run. In the long run you will get 100% back for a dividend check.

Jeff Mech stated it is very well thought out. If you have kids you receive more. He has been involved since 2012 in this organization. Mayor Seaman seemed to be very interested. This has nothing directly to do with Tinley Park, just looking for a municipal endorsement.

Adam James asked how many tons of CO₂ an average household would emit in a single year.

Jeff Mech stated that would be hard to pin down. People will not get rich from it but it will offset the extra money you pay at the pump. Nuclear, which is a pretty good chunk of how ComEd gets their energy will not be touched by them at all. Nuclear is not costing anything towards global warming and greenhouses gases. Solar and hydro will immediately spike. The demand for cheap energy will never go down. The idea is to put a sin tax on it so it will go down. A comparison would be to cigarette smoking. The thing that ultimately stops people from smoking is that they can't afford it anymore.

Jeff Mech stated the Village of Tinley Park, State Senator Michael Hastings, Senator Kirk and Kirk's office specifically requested this and wanted to act on this if there was state support. Took that to mean municipal, state reps.

Adam James discovered that 2.77 tons for 10,000 miles for a compact car would be around \$40.00 for a compact car, per vehicle.

Jeff Mech stated that everyone would get the same amount.

Frank Markowicz explained that fossil fuel industry will be weaned out eventually because it is inevitable. This will spark innovation.

Jeff Mech stated that 350.org is across the board a standard among scientists. 350 is the accepted standard of scientists stating that we should not go anywhere over 350 or we will have big problems. We are over 400, we passed 350 a long time ago. Climate change is here.

Frank Markowicz commented this is huge.

Jeff Mech stated on a global scale, the entire world has said we are not going to allow the earth to warm 2-3 Celsius. Indications are that if we don't have something like this soon we will go up to 4. That is the trend. The rest of the world economies still goes through the U.S. If the U.S. does something like this, the dominos will fall as to how many other countries we do business with that will follow. If they don't have a carbon tax we will charge them when they import. This is very important. A lot of members of Congress are very concerned. Thinks it will make us less competitive in the world market that is why a border adjustment is part of this whole proposal. If this goes through it will explode and create millions of jobs.

Frank Markowitz stated the insurance costs will be going up because of the flooding and weather. Medical is also going up. More children than ever have asthma. All part of the scenario, an added benefit to the tax.

Adam James stated they can charge a little bit less than the fossil fuel and it would be a huge incentive for them.

Motion made by Michelle Ayala, seconded by Frank Markowicz for the EEC to endorse the resolution of a carbon fee and dividend and present it to the Village Board for approval. All in favor.

New Commissioners/Resigning Commissioners

Antonio Halek announced that Kerri Roiniotis and Barbara Moore are full commissioners now and he received a letter of resignation from Commissioner Lucas Engel.

Old/Ongoing Business:

Idle Free

Antonio Halek announced the signs were installed at District 140 schools. He will ask Jason Freeman and see if he can put something in the weekly blast to announce the signs.

Jeff Mech will send an email showing the pictures. Many signs were put on poles in the parking lots. He will contact *The Junction* to have an article put out there so everyone knows about this program. He has also emailed the superintendent about the signs stating that the work is on District 140 to get the word out and explain the signs. This statement will be put into the virtual backpack: "Attention Dist. 140 students, faculty parents, and vendors. All our schools are now idle free in the parking lot pick up and drop off areas. We ask that drivers of vehicles be mindful of this. As a general guideline engines should be turned off if running for more than one minutes. Thank you to all for all your cooperation. This will add up to cleaner air to breathe and a healthier environment for our children."

This will be emailed to the superintendent and placed in the virtual backpack.

Michelle Ayala suggested distributing information at parent-teacher conferences to let everyone know that the signs are there and what they are for. Michelle also suggested letting the buses companies/drivers know.

Adam James suggested a web link to the flyer with the information. The flyer contains hard data to back up the program.

Jeff Mech stated that buses are on their own. They already have idling restrictions and rules. They are in their own category and have diesels. He will also notify Cool Cities as to the program started.

On-Site Visits

Nuway Visit

Antonio Halek stated that NuWay has one school visit date for the end of March. When it gets closer we will pin down actual date and see if anyone wants to join the tour.

Good of the Order

Antonio Halek stated there is an electronic recycling event November 12th for Orland Township. You can also purchase a coupon on-line to drop off your TV for recycling. The fee is \$25.00 then you bring your TV with your coupon and other small electronics at no cost. NuWay will accept two TVs per household at no cost to us as it is part of the garbage contract.

Adam James stated NuWay would need a certain truck to collect electronics as they can't use the regular garbage trucks.

Beth Mikula made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Adam James. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.