



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission  
Tuesday, June 19, 2018 - 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  
Aireen Arellano  
Jeffery Loftus  
Frank Markowicz  
Jeff Mech  
Visitors: Abram Othman  
Connie Gonzalez-Jimenez  
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano

**Absent:** Kelly Mulqueeny, Staff Liaison  
Village Trustee Brian Younker

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by **Antonio Halek** at 7:00 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 May 15, 2018 minutes made by **Jeff Mech**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus**. Minutes approved by voice vote.

Introductions and welcome to new visitors.

Visitor Connie Gonzalez-Jimenez is a nurse at Northwestern Hospital. Sadly, Northwestern is a huge institution but it does not recycle. She is trying to implement a recycling program at the hospital where she works for medical equipment and personal items. Today (6/19/18) was the first day she was able to put a recycling bin in the lounge.

Abram Othman a student at IIT, an Urban and Economic Development policy and chemistry. He met Jeff Mech in D.C. who told him about the EEC so he came to a meeting to see what it is all about.

Jeff Mech asked Abram Othman what his D.C. experience was like the first time.

Abram Othman stated that his experience in D.C. was very educational. National policy was good, legislative staff was good. Spoke with Senator Dick Durbin's staff about policy legislation. Good meeting, not sure if he was supportive of the policy but Durbin and his team is open about the environment. Peter Roskin was also positive as to environmental issues. He was on the clean-up team for Lake Michigan.

### **Correspondence**

No correspondence.

### **Reports**

New budget available.

### **OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

#### **Recommendations to the Tinley Park Waste and Recycling Bid/Contract**

**Jeffery Loftus** reported it is ongoing and there has been no movement on it this month. This should be removed from the agenda until a later date when the village is ready to discuss. Not looking to terminate the contract early so it is not going to go out for bid until early next year.

### **Business Cards**

**Aireen Arellano** reported that business cards are on hold until the email situation is resolved. Went to the village hall and spoke with Laura Godette. We are one step closer to getting/setting up an EEC email.

### **Tree City USA**

**Aireen Arellano** stated that becoming a Tree City is much easier than we thought. Spoke with Linda Kujawa, veteran member of the Parks and Grounds Department of Orland Park who stated that Orland Park has been a Tree City for 31 years. She was very helpful and informative. Linda Kujawa stated you need to reapply every year to maintain Tree City status. Pretty easy to do. They want you to become a Tree City. Renee Hildebrandt reviews the applications and lets you know if you are approved to be a Tree City. If there is anything missing she will let you know and also guide you as to what is needed to be submitted. Need invoices to prove that we spend certain money on trees and we need to sign a proclamation. We do not need a special committee but we need a trustee name and a piece of paper signed by the mayor to declare Tinley Park a Tree City. Need to select a date for the declaration.

**Antonio Halek** suggested every spring clean-up is also our Tree City day.

**Jeffery Loftus** stated we need to show proof that money is being spent on trees and we are good to go.

**Aireen Arellano** will email Kelly this week and see what we can do to get this going before next meeting.

### **Discuss proposal to add information to TP resident's water bill.**

**Jeff Mech** suggested tabling for now as Tinley Park now has a ridiculously comprehensive website now. Still would like to see it included in the water bill as residents will not check on their water usage via the website that often. Thinking about seniors and those who do not have on-line access. He will draft something that can be included in the water bill.

### **MWRD Tree Distribution**

**Antonio Halek** asked what upcoming dates would be good for everyone to participate in the tree distribution. Antonio also stated that we need to talk to MWRD, talk to Vicki about having a tent at the Farmer's Market. Would need tables, chairs, tent, A-frame signs to advertise. Looking at distributing trees at the July 7<sup>th</sup> Farmer's Market from 7:00 a.m. to noon. Two people would be more than enough to distribute the trees.

**Frank Markowicz** asked how many trees we would have for distribution. **Antonio Halek** stated we would have 150. Any extras he would give to the farmer so he can plant on his land.

**Jeffery Loftus** observed that it seems to be the same people attending the Farmer's Market. Suggested having the tree distribution twice a year so as not to oversaturate the people.

**Aireen Arellano** asked if there is a limit as to how many trees someone can take.

**Antonio Halek** suggested one per family for starters.

**Jeff Mech** asked if we will provide planting instructions.

**Aireen Arellano** suggested a sheet of planting tips to go with the trees. Those that take trees can take a picture of it.

### **Purchase of A-Frame Signage and Earth Flags**

**Aireen Arellano** got a couple of quotes. Unfortunately, there is only 1 viable quote. Tried to keep local in Tinley Park. Reached out to Liberty, Graphics Land and Presto Press. Presto Press did not get back to her. Graphics Land cannot do plastic, they can only do foam. Came out to \$374. Had them quote it two ways to have 2 sets of 4 signs. Liberty charges \$90.00 for 1-sided, \$131.00 for 2-sided.

**Jeff Mech** thinks it is not comparable to his quote. Wants to make sure it is comparable. Coroplast will be cheaper for sure. Not comparable to his quote. It is corrugated plastic. Need PVC, which is nicer, don't see the ridges. Need a quote on 3 PVC, need to ask if it is an outdoor rated sign and how it is printed.

**Antonio Halek** asked what the cost was on the other signs **Jeff Mech** quote.

**Aireen Arellano** made a motion, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus** to proceed with the signs from Liberty.

**Jeff Mech** was quoted to print four spring clean-up signs it would be \$277.24 for 24x36 inch signs. Laminated, made for outdoors. \$69.31 each. Thinks we really need the signs for the Farmer's Market.

Motion made by **Jeffery Loftus**, seconded by **Aireen Arellano** to have four spring clean-up signs and two tree pick-up signs ordered if the quote comes in below \$280.00 from Liberty.

**Jeff Mech** thinks we should buy up a bunch of Earth Flags and keep them for various events. Small 8x12 is \$6.95 each plus \$1.95 shipping & handling. Really thinking of having them as a give-away at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the clean-up.

**Frank Markowicz** suggested flags with 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary spring clean-up on it. **Jeff Mech** agreed that is a great idea but it will increase the cost greatly as it would be considered a custom item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Rain Garden**

**Aireen Arellano** reported the Rain Garden Open House was held on May 31<sup>st</sup>. She attended. Huff & Huff and Lindsay Burt were in attendance. Wanted to educate the public about how to a rain garden was built and how it can help benefit the community. She stated that studies have been done to prove that rain gardens have been proven to divert storm water and with more development comes more concrete and that water has to go somewhere so rain gardens are a functional aesthetic to solve that problem. The rain garden needs consistent care and water for the first few weeks then it will take hold and become self-sustaining. Huff & Huff will help will funding opportunities. Grants help match other grants, in-kind, pay for volunteers and leverage money, New Lenox rain garden is at their village hall, received a grant in May of 2017, constructed the garden in fall of 2017 and began planting in May of 2018. The garden was designed by Huff & Huff engineers. Public Works is a great partner. Lindsay Burt suggested driving around to see what areas might work for a rain garden. Possibly areas prone to flooding. Tinley might be eligible for the Green Infrastructure Grant. Aireen has another advocate, Karen Darcy. She is a trustee with conservation foundation and used to be a professor at Governor's State and Karen can help up with the writing of the grant and provide samples. Very helpful as they want us to create a rain garden to help the environment. Karen stated there is some required up-front investment, needs to have a designer to apply for a grant. Once those grants kick in we would be set. They are happy to correspond further.

**Antonio Halek** thinks it would be feasible to have a rain garden site and planned for next year, though it would be tight. Maybe 2020 would be more feasible.

**Jeff Mech** stated there are so many opportunities out there. He thought our liaison might not be as motivated to obtaining grants but if we do the hard work for them, they should be open to it.

**Aireen Arellano** stated that again, Public Works is a great partner so we will have to work with them. [Aireen passed around her computer with information and pictures.] There is a QR Code on there that opens up an app that opens up the entire project Huff & Huff is working on and all the preservation initiatives in the area. It is overwhelming. We have all the help it is just up to us to get everything going. Lindsay Burt can give us access to successful proposals and budgets to get this project started.

### **Hickory Creek Bio-Blitz Hosting and Dates**

Lindsay Burt from Huff & Huff was in contact with Denise Maly-Politano to inquire if Tinley Park EEC would be interested in hosting the Bio-Blitz again this year and what dates would be best for the EEC. (We were given a choice of 9/8 or 9/22).

Motion made by **Frank Markowicz**, seconded by **Aireen Arellano** to host Bio-Blitz on September 8, 2018. **Antonio Halek** stated motion carried.

### **Good of the Order**

**Antonio Halek** shared information on the upcoming Will County Green Event. You need to be a Will County resident. If anyone attends, please take pictures and get contacts and information and report at the next EEC meeting.

**Antonio Halek** stated that we are looking at the following for a timeline of events for the EEC:

- Spring clean-up
- Tree City
- Nu-Way Visit
- E-Waste Recycling
- Bio-Blitz
- Discover Tinley
- Solar Panels
- Rain Garden

**Frank Markowicz** suggested added to our timeline the charging station at 191<sup>st</sup> and Harlem. It will be Tesla specific.

**Jeff Mech** spoke with Ken Shaw about the charging station and found out the village is very much for it. The only reason why they are tabling it is because of logistical issues with Tesla. Goes without saying that we should get these in however we need to do it. Most charges take 30 minutes and putting it in the shopping area is a great idea because you would charge your vehicle and then go into the stores to shop while you are charging.

**Frank Markowicz** stated that it is not free to charge. If you have a vehicle that needs to be charge there is a few. Agreed that the location at 191<sup>st</sup> and Harlem is a perfect location.

**Jeff Mech** invited the new visitors to send in their resume to the mayor if they are interested in becoming members of the EEC.

**Antonio Halek** stated we can contact them for certain events if they do not want to get involved at this time. Don't feel like you have to jump right in, come to a meeting when you can, help with a project when you are able.

**Receive Comments from the Public**

Visitor **Connie Gonzalez-Jimenez** stated she was interested in being involved. She shared composting information with the EEC from a conference she attended in San Diego.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by **Frank Markowicz**, seconded by **Jeff Mech** to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

/dmp