



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission  
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.  
Tinley Park Village Hall – Fulton Conference Room  
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  
Frank Markowicz  
Jeff Mech  
Jeffery Loftus  
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 7:04 p.m. in the Fulton Conference Room. Motion to open the meeting and approve the agenda made by **Jeffery Loftus**, second by **Frank Markowicz**. Motion to approve the September 18, 2018 minutes made by **Jeff Mech**, seconded by **Frank Markowicz**. Minutes approved by voice vote.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence received.

**Committee Reports**

**Electrical Aggregation**

Nothing received from Sharon on electrical aggregation. **Antonio Halek** was under the impression it would be automatic updates as they came in but that does not seem to be the case. Seems like a big group of residents switched over from MC2 back to ComEd. This was not because they opted out but because of other reasons. 8,000 residents went back to ComEd as these customers were not considered for MC2. **Jeffery Loftus** agreed as they also received a letter. Need to be a good energy user to provide credits for the community. He explained if you are not a good energy user, then you go back to ComEd rate. MC2 has an algorithm and if you are not a good energy user they you go back to ComEd because you are not creating energy

credits for the community. MC2 then buys energy credits in the amount to total the entire amount of the community. Even though we are not being serviced by MC2, MC2 is still buying credits on our behalf to cover the energy consumed. **Frank Markowicz** confirmed that it is being offered to people that use less energy. **Jeff Mech** stated he also received the letter but thought it was for a completely different reason. Had no idea that 8,000 people in Tinley Park got this letter. **Antonio Halek** stated this is not a surprise. MC2 stated that certain people would be informed this way.

**Aireen Arellano** directed everyone to an October 2<sup>nd</sup> email from Hannah attaching an article regarding the costs and usage.

**Jeffrey Loftus** brought up the Crain's article stating that the renewable option is not all that green.

**Jeff Mech** stated that was why the board voted for this. You are not being charged the same rate as ComEd. There are shady suppliers out there. Looks at ComEd bills all day now and see that some people are being ripped off. Spark Energy is one of them charging 10 or 11 cents per KW hour. They knock on your door, sign people up and it applies for the first year with them counting on them not reading the fine print of having a deadline to call to keep the rate or cancel. This was vetted by the village and they knew they had guarantees that they had a solid deal.

**Aireen Arellano** stated that Sharon addressed specific points from the Crain's article rebutting. She will forward it on to everyone.

**Jeff Mech** asked if the Craine's article was discussed in front of the board.

**Jeffery Loftus** stated it was discussed last meeting.

**Antonio Halek** stated that 8,000 households went directly to ComEd and were not considered for MC2.

**Jeff Mech** asked if this was a question we could pose to Sharon.

**Antonio Halek** will send Sharon an email and ask if she can come to our next meeting. The emails stated that the MC2 7.292 rate mirrors Com Ed rates.

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

#### **Business Cards/EEC Email**

**Aireen Arellano** reported the EEC business cards went to print.

**Antonio Halek** stated the EEC did receive a FOIA email requesting information on the electronic recycling event and how we requested bids. Gave them the information and has not heard anything back.

**Jeffery Loftus** asked if the individual was satisfied.

**Antonio Halek** has not heard anything back after the initial email.

### **Tree City USA**

In **Kelly Mulqueeny's** absence Tree City tabled until November.

### **Rain Garden/Apple Pond**

In **Kelly Mulqueeny's** absence, Rain Garden tabled until November.

### **District 140 and Solar Panels**

**Jeff Mech** reported getting solar panels on his residential house that consists of 12 panels which offsets 90% of the energy usage. Back-up battery storage is needed. It is not cost effective at a cost of \$8,000.00. Extra energy not used goes back into the grid. Still dependent on ComEd. Have a meter now that measures all of the energy not used and what we get a credit for. Back up battery right now if not cost effective for residential in this market. Working on technology to become more effective. Probably another 3-4 years. Even if you want to spend the money on a backup battery you still are connected to ComEd. Really no way to avoid ComEd. Roof is very visible and anyone driving down 175<sup>th</sup> Street will see it.

**Antonio Halek** wants to have a "kit" or a "one stop shop" for someone interested in adding solar panels to their house.

**Frank Markowicz** stated that getting someone out to inspect is a wait. There is a smaller home on 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue that has solar panels. Very nice job was done on the home.

**Jeff Mech** had a great experience working with the village. Had a meeting with the electrical inspector. Said it cost about \$350.00 for the permit from Tinley Park and all municipalities are different. Romeoville is notorious for being very particular on permits which can be a good thing or a bad thing but the mayor allows them to get permits for no cost to the residents. Tinley Park is doing well. Apparently the permit process was smooth. Comparing to Orland Park the permitting process is pretty rigorous in Orland Park and we need to work with them on that. Compared to other towns, including Orland Park, Tinley Park is doing well for permitting for solar panels. Also have to deal with HOA's too for approval. Illinois in general is pushing solar not only in residential but solar farms, industrial, commercial, etc. A state law was passed in 2011 that says a HOA cannot restrict a homeowner from going solar. Will learn more as we go along but Tinley Park is pretty good so far.

**Jeff Mech** met with the superintendent, assistant superintendent, grounds guy, maintenance guy business manager of Dist. 140. Was there with Ken Diketa from Siemens. He is the head guy for getting solar on school buildings right now. The funding is there for the state. Brother-in-law works for Darien School District where they are getting a big solar system on the school roof and the state is paying for it. Set up a meeting and went as representing the EEC and pushing more solar for Tinley Park. Had a good 40 minute meeting with a slideshow and presentation and the response from Dist. 140 was pretty lukewarm. Had some objections and concerns. Disappointed in their response. They want the board to look at it.

**Aireen Arellano** asked what their objections were.

**Jeff Mech** stated the biggest was how it would affect their roofs. They are managing all of these roofs and buildings and they are on rotations. Surprised that there is no penetration on a flat roof. It is held down by weights. That didn't seem to ease their minds. It would also protect the roof. Will also put a mini solar farm on open land and Dist. 140 is trying to think about that. Siemens will even put it in retention areas. Stressed that it does not have to be placed on all roofs but to start with just one. Educate the kids about it and what solar panels are doing. Science teachers would love it. Not a penny out of their pockets and they would benefit too. Don't know if anything will come about it but at least they know it is an option.

### **Electronic Recycling Event**

**Antonio Halek** stated the Electronic Recycling Event will be October 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until Noon. It is on the Patch and in the email and on the website. We will have six volunteers, EEC will follow the same map, and we have two forklift drivers from PW. Everyone will wear yellow vests to be more visible.

**Aireen Arellano** noticed there were two different times listed so she created two different flyers with the two different times. Same flyer as last year with the new date and time.

**Jeffrey Loftus** confirmed the email states the hours are 8:00 a.m. to Noon. He will bring the yellow vests.

### **FUTURE BUSINESS:**

#### **Garbage Contract**

**Jeffery Loftus** tabled until November. He will be in contact with Pat Carr to see if he needs assistance.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **New Chief/Flares vs. LEDs**

In **Kelly Mulqueeny's** absence the discussion will be tabled until October. **Jeffrey Loftus** suggested presenting a proposal package to the new chief based on what Susan and Nick Yasillo had presented to us at an earlier meeting. Need to try to get the costs and present it as a cost savings resolution.

**Aireen Arellano** agreed and stated that we need hard numbers to show the chief.

**Jeff Mech** inquired about any other users. Need to find LEDs that are durable and can be reused and will last outdoors.

**Antonio Halek** suggested trying to order samples to demonstrate how LEDs work and find some people that use them in the area.

**Frank Markowicz** stated it needs to be designed for rugged use.

**Jeff Mech** asked about the real hazardous effects of the flares.

**Jeffrey Loftus** stated that it is in the packet but it is the chloride salts that end up in the water stream and it has a neurological effect. It is measured in parts per million. A very small amount can have a huge effect. Not only leaking out to the water ways but inhaling it for those that work near it. Public Works was on a better schedule and more effective in the clean-up.

**Antonio Halek** will contact Oak Forest, Midlothian and Country Club Hills to see what they use and where they order from.

**Jeffrey Loftus** will reach out to New Lenox, Mokena and Frankfort.

**Antonio Halek** is hoping to get samples at no cost.

**Jeffrey Loftus** suggested doing the community research first and then we can vote on it next meeting with solid numbers and information.

#### **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Clean-up**

**Antonio Halek** asked everyone to think of ideas to make the 40<sup>th</sup> clean-up even better and every meeting ideas will be discussed. The venue will remain the same for lunch, Tinley Park High School. Pizza will be ordered again from Salinas along with more veggie sandwiches.

**Aireen Arellano** suggested offering prizes as an incentive to get more people involved. Possibly have trivia games related to recycling.

**Antonio Halek** will provide a photo booth with props that blend in with the theme such as a tree and an earth. Also suggested trying to get more student volunteers to do the labor type things. Hope to get more high school students to help for service hours. Maybe students from the green teams can help out.

**Jeff Mech** will make an effort to invite the mayor and the board. Brian Younker was very present last year. Thinks the food will be great so long as we offer healthy options and vegetarian options. Wants to have a good poster with solid facts.

**Antonio Halek** suggested other volunteers to serve the food so that the EEC members are able to talk more to the people and be more interactive.

**Aireen Arellano** would like to see more interactive things, incorporating facts, trivia, winning prizes. Earth Day is Easter so she suggested April 13<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Jeff Mech** suggested the 27<sup>th</sup> as it might be better weather and some separation from the Discover Tinley event.

**Frank Markowicz** made a motion for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Clean-up to be on April 27, 2019. Motion seconded by **Antonio Halek**. Motion carried.

### **General EEC Inserts**

**Antonio Halek** stated that we need more inserts for signs. Maybe 2-sided so we can carry around less signs but be used for different events. **Jeff Mech** said the signs need to be 3m PVC because the other type does not fit well in the A-frame signs. **Aireen Arellano** will get quotes on the sign inserts.

**Antonio Halek** suggested the regular green sign on one side, the spring clean-up on the other.

### **Good of the Order**

**Frank Markowicz** stated that the LED street lights were a great idea the village had. What a difference in lighting and it will save the village a lot of money.

**Jeffery Mech** suggested purchasing trees with left over money in the budget. Any Tinley Park resident can buy a tree, donate it, plant it, put your name on it, etc. The EEC trees would be planted on behalf of the EEC.

**Denise Maly-Politano** passed out copies of a magazine article she found on algae eating away the Des Plaines River. Good information related to Bio-Blitz, Hickory Creek water samples and erosion.

### **Comments from the Public**

No public, no comments.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made by **Frank Markowicz**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus** to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

/dmp