



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, May 21, 2019
Tinley Park Village Hall – Fulton Conference Room**

ROLL CALL

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

Members: Chairman Antonio Halek
Aireen Arellano
Jeffery Loftus
Jeff Mech
Frank Markowicz
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano
Visitors: Girl Scout Troop 60531

Absent: Kelly Mulqueeny, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by **Antonio Halek** at 7:00 p.m. Motion to open the meeting and approve the agenda made by **Aireen Arellano**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus**.

Motion made by **Jeffery Loftus**, seconded by **Frank Markowicz**, to approve the April 16, 2019 minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Commission. Motion carried.

Antonio Halek welcomed Girl Scout Troop 60531, introductions.

[Discussion about the EEC and what the commission does, its members, commissioners and purpose followed along with discussion about what Girl Scout badge the troupe was trying to earn (“Get Moving” badge) and what their ideas were for the environment. One Girl Scout would like to see more trees and a retention pond placed behind Fulton school.]

Antonio Halek explained that we are trying to show responsibility through the choices we are making. It is the responsibility that we have that might cost more right now but in the future it might be more affordable. What recycling teaches the kids and all of us are what the right type of plastic is. Maybe not use plastic at all or make a more conscious decision when using it. What if plastic utensils were made of bamboo instead or something else compostable.

Jeff Mech stated that Blaze pizza is using straws made out of plants to cut down on plastic usage. He asked the Girl Scouts to imagine a fast food restaurant across the country and how

many straws and plastic are being used at just that one restaurant. The idea is that if a smaller company like Blaze pizza using straws made out of plants then why a larger company can't do the same. The big thing is the single use plastics. Try to get more than one use out of it or not use it as all.

Correspondence

No correspondence received.

Committee Reports

Electrical Aggregation

Antonio Halek is trying to track down information on MC2 to see how the rates compare to ComEd. He received an email from Hannah but it did not include rates confirming the ComEd prices. He wants to confirm that the ComEd price is the same as the electrical aggregation prices. What that means is that we are getting energy from renewable sources or from renewable energy credits.

Tree City USA

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

Rain Garden/Apple Pond

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

40th Annual Spring Clean-up – April 27, 2019 - Recap

Antonio Halek stated we had a great turn out despite the weather. He thanked the Girl Scouts for attending and asked for suggestions for next year.

Jeff Mech asked if any of the girls had a chance to look at any of the educational displays at the event.

The Girl Scouts thought the Tri-fold boards were very helpful. Food was really good. They really loved the photo booth and the activities.

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Garbage Contract

Jeffery Loftus explained the contract is up for renewal this year. He talked quick with Pat Carr. They are actively seeking bids. We have been with the same refuse providers for 27 years and we are trying to see if there is anything new that we can take advantage of. The EEC is seeing if Nu-Way is still giving us a good price and we are providing an outline of what would be good for the village. We are also looking into electronics pickup and hazardous waste as well.

Antonio Halek encouraged the Girl Scouts to bring up any suggestions regarding the new refuse contract. We are trying to get as much feedback as we can because if we don't put it into the contract it will not be addressed. Another suggestion is to look into the mulching of trees and using the wood chips somewhere else. Our current company, NuWay, uses compressed natural

gas so they use a cleaner version of gas. Maybe it's not the way but the type of gas they are using.

Jeffrey Loftus suggested we also recommended in the refuse contract is that starting 75% of the vehicles that would be serving Tinley Park such as a waste hauler would be clean burning fuels and start within 2 years that 100% of the vehicles would be clean burning.

Flares vs. LEDs

Jeffrey Loftus explained that two residents brought to our attention the use of flares around the music theater and the different levels of toxicity with using these flares and what we can do. It when then determined that PW would come through and pick up the waste immediately after the concerts to avoid the waste going into storm drains. He talked with a couple of fire fighters and police to discuss using LEDs. We found some rechargeable ones and are working with Emergency Management here in Tinley Park and see if they will switch over to LEDs. The regular flares are very toxic.

Frank Markowicz suggested using LED cones which are highly more visible.

NEW BUSINESS

Booth at Farmer's Market

Aireen Arellano suggested having a booth at the Farmer's Market again. Last year was very successful with the tree giveaway. This would be another way for the community to connect with us and bring awareness to the community.

Motion made by **Jeffrey Loftus** to apply for a booth at the Farmer's Market, seconded by **Jeff Mech**. All in favor of a booth for the 2019 season.

Good of the Order

Girl Scout Troop suggested a community garden, how to help with global warning. **Jeff Mech** suggested eating less meat. **Aireen Arellano** stated that cows are a huge contributor to gasses in the air, more than cars even. There are also statistics on meatless Mondays. **Antonio Halek** suggested a board demonstrating the benefits of Meatless Mondays. Other suggestions included a bike to work/school day, collection of plastic caps and water bottles to create anti-bully benches made out of recycled plastics. **Antonio Halek** suggested working together on one project and helping the troop start it. **Aireen Arellano** stated that it helps when something is backed up with facts as to why.

Aireen Arellano stated that there are 2 million plastic bags used every minute which takes 450 years to biodegrade. 80% of bottled and tap water contain plastic fibers so we are not only using it but ingesting it as well which is very disturbing. 90% of all plastic is used just once and thrown away and used for an average of 15 minutes. 40% of all plastic is used for packaging. Over 600 species are affected by marine plastic waster because they are eating it. A lot of recycling is exported so China is taking it and we don't know what they are doing with it. 89% of that plastic is single-use food packaging. Some solutions are biodegradable plastics, also advances in edible

packages, can also not use plastic, and use paper instead. These solutions reduce the use of plastic and increases consumer experiences as well. Doing little things can make a huge impact.

Frank Markowicz stated that it takes 180 days to biodegrade bags from Trader Joe's.

Jeff Mech reported to the Girl Scouts that the EEC started the no idling signs at all District 140 schools in Tinley Park. It took a couple of years but it is something we are very proud of. Maybe we can work with District 146 and try to implement the same there. He also suggested a new idea of starting a program that would rate the restaurants in Tinley Park as to how "green" they are. There would be a rating system for all Tinley Park restaurants such as gold, silver, platinum to grade them as to how "green" the restaurant is with an official village certificate giving out annually. For example, a Styrofoam box for leftovers. Those containers are awful. If a restaurant does not use it, they can get points for that. He will provide outlines and article at next month's meeting.

Comments from the Public

No public, no comments.

Adjournment

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

/dmp