



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, November 10, 2020
Tinley Park Village Hall – Counsel Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by **Aireen Arellano** at 7:01 p.m. At this time, this meeting is being conducted pursuant to Governor Pritzker’s disaster proclamation and Public Act 101-0460, which amends requirements of the Open Meetings Act due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Pursuant to the same, the EEC finds that it would be impractical to conduct an in-person meeting with all members present. Commissioners confirmed they were able to hear one another. The **Script for Remotely Conducted Open Meetings** was read into the minutes by Aireen Arellano.

ROLL CALL

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

- Members:** Aireen Arellano (remote)
Donna Gillespie (remote)
John Houdek (remote)
Jeffery Loftus (remote)
Brenna Molinare (remote)
Brandon Wigboldy (remote)
Frank Markowicz (remote)
Hannah Lipman, Staff Liaison
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano
- Absent:** Nicole Ryan
Evan Vogt

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by **John Houdek**, seconded by **Brandon Wigboldy**, to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by **John Houdek**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus**, to approve the October 13, 2020 minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Commission. Motion carried.

Correspondence

No correspondence received.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:

Tree City USA

Jeffery Loftus contacted Kelly Mulqueeny for an update. No response.

Garbage Contract

Jeffery Loftus discussed information about links on the Homewood website and adding those links to Tinley Park's website for ease of use. Wants to show an overview of programs and focus on appropriate links.

Flares Update

John Houdek stated that he provided 120 samples to the fire department. Those sample flares are being used by the fire department at emergencies and accidents but there have been no other activities for the flares to be used at.

Jeffery Loftus asked if the fire department was using cinder flares before.

John Houdek thinks the fire department was using battery operated flares which were equally as bad as the open flames.

FUTURE BUSINESS:

EEC 2020 Goals

Aireen Arellano would like everyone to put some effort into the EEC goals for the remainder of this year and next year and share some ideas on how to be eco-friendly during Covid-19 and the future. This would be a great opportunity to workshop ideas, have an action checklist and gear up ideas and events for 2021. She would like to see the branding checklist and how it coincides with what the EEC and the village is working with, along with organizational roles and funding. We want to work towards advancing our mission of bettering ourselves for our residents.

Donna Gillespie agreed the EEC needs to align with the village goals/strategic plans. It looks like the village has 5 main goals:

1. Supporting and enhancing a comprehensive public safety network in partnership with the community;
2. cultivating a highly motivated workforce through investments in Village employees, processes and technology;
3. expanding economic development opportunities;
4. increasing neighborhood and business district stability; and
5. improving community engagement and tourism. The plan aims to provide a safe, high-quality

NEW BUSINESS

WasteZero Update

Aireen Arellano introduced everyone to guest speaker Dave Bryla from WasteZero.

Dave Bryla explained WasteZero is a for-profit program that takes other things Goodwill will not. Their mission is to cut trash in half.

Donna Gillespie liked the premise of the program. Asked if the collected textiles are cut into rags or shredded.

Dave Bryla stated it is both. If items are in very bad shape it would be shredded. If not, cut into rags and reused. What sets WasteZero apart from the others is that it is completely curbside. Every resident is mailed an orange bag which they can place on the curb when filled. The trucks pick up the orange bags on the usual garbage pickup days. All “good” textiles are sold, and “bad” turned into rags. As for comparable, WasteZero works with different cities and towns to conserve energy, water and waste. Residents separate trash responsibly and get the correct items to the right places. Need to educate the residents. Pilot in mass by asking the residents to separate into color-coded bags. This will cut trash by 44%. If you are throwing items in the regular garbage, you are throwing money away when you fill a landfill.

Brenna Molinare asked what educational materials are you sending to residents with the bag?

Dave Bryla said the mailer is loaded with information and the information is also on the website. You want to inform residents on what to do and when/how to do it.

John Houdek inquired about the existence of the rebate program.

Dave Bryla confirmed they can no longer offer the same benefits/rebates now because of Covid. Their costs have increased and there is no rebate. This is now a cost reduction program. You would see savings as a city and a benefit to the community and environment with curbside collection along with keeping items out of the landfill and a decrease in tipping.

Brandon Wigboldy asked how long it would take to get the program up and running here in Tinley Park.

Dave Bryla explained that if it was summer months, 6 weeks. Now with the holidays it would take longer. He suggested sending out a mailer end of January. Bags would be placed right next to the recycling bins curbside. Pickup takes a little bit of coordination with the usual waste hauler but most are used to it and know about the program.

Jeffery Loftus stated the EEC will need to communicate with and let the waste haulers know so they do not pick up the orange bags.

John Houdek suggested contacting Homewood to confirm and see how we can be successful in this program.

Donna Gillespie would like to see the brochures.

Brandon Wigboldy asked if WasteZero was textiles only or other items and programs.

Aireen Arellano stated it is for textiles only.

Ace Hardware/Homewood Disposal Yard Waste Stickers

Donna Gillespie informed everyone that Tinley residents do not need yard waste stickers (other towns do) even though you are able to purchase these stickers from Ace Hardware and/or Homewood Disposal. Homewood Disposal is closed due to COVID-19 and Ace Hardware should not sell stickers to Tinley Park residents. It is not shown on the website and not easy to find. If you go to these places to purchase stickers they might inadvertently sell them to you even though the stickers are not needed. Need to have a clearer, updated website with this information. She only discovered this information because she had a lot of yard waste due to cutting down some very large trees in her yard. When she investigated on the Tinley Park and Homewood Disposal websites, it was difficult to find the information, which led to a lot of phone calls. You can rent a container from Homewood and have branches cut down to 4x2 ft. and tied with rope. These will be picked up during your normal disposal day. We need to make it clearer what has been rolled into the Tinley garbage contract, what you can put out, how you can do it and residents do not need to worry about purchasing yard waste stickers for \$2.65 each.

Brandon Wigboldy added to that information stating that you can find a lot of information at mydisposal.com/tinleypark. You can also use the brown paper yard bags or bundle.

Jeffery Loftus stated that yard waste is collected April 1st through November 30th under the Tinley garbage contract. It costs \$3.00 a month to rent the yard waste containers as you are no longer able to purchase one.

Latest Links/Resources by Members

Aireen Arellano thanked everyone for the great links that are being shared by everyone via email. There have been a lot of good resources to work with. It was also confirmed that you cannot recycle the individual/daily contact lens cases/packaging as the container is too small for the recycling facility to work with. Packaging can be collected and sent to terracycle.com once a year by scheduling a pickup from home via the post office.

Composting in Tinley Park

Donna Gillespie shared information on composting kitty litter and dog's waste.

CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)

Brenna Molinare reported nothing new with CSA. Looks like it is a 20 week season during the summer months, like farmers' market schedules.

Donna Gillespie agreed as she discovered Bray Farms is also over for the season. Still believes it is a nice alternative to shopping at stores, especially for the seniors.

Good of the Order

N/A

Comments from the Public

No public, no comments.

Adjournment

Motion made by **Jeffery Loftus**, seconded by **Brandon Wigboldy**, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

/dmp