



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, December 8, 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 7:00 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)
Jeffery Loftus (remote)
Brenna Molinare (remote)
Evan Vogt (remote)
Brandon Wigboldy (remote)
Hannah Lipman, Staff Liaison
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano
- Absent:** John Houdek
Frank Markowicz
Nicole Ryan

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by **Evan Vogt**, seconded by **Donna Gillespie**, to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by **Brandon Wigboldy**, seconded by **Brenna Molinare**, to approve the November 10, 2020 minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Commission. Motion carried.

Correspondence

No correspondence received.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:

Garbage Contract

Jeffery Loftus sent an outline of the new proposed approach to having the garbage and recycling information on the Tinley Park website. If Hannah can provide any feedback then we can proceed onto the proper channels to begin connecting that.

Hannah Lipman thinks it looks great and will work with Jason on that. Have to get Jason the map, get it onto the website and have him move forward on it.

Jeffery Loftus will send out the information to everyone for their input before sending and finalizing with Jason.

Aireen Arellano cited to Schaumburg's website as an example. They have a very robust website that breaks everything down into simple segmented topics for anyone looking for information. Thinks everyone in Tinley Park would appreciate having that accessibility and information for garbage and recycling for residents to use.

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.

Donna Gillespie sent everyone an audio Guided Forest Therapy walk anyone can participate in. Also sent information on solar panels via ComEd after Denise sent information on the solar panel project at Lincoln-Way High School.

Aireen Arellano stated the solar panels was an educational program for renewable energy, science, physics and chemistry. Wondering if it would be an idea to invite the teacher to a meeting and talk with us about her initiatives and how to include in some 2021 events either virtually or in person. Signed up for the ComEd program which is currently in the works.

Homewood Disposal Yard Waste Communication and Stickers

Donna Gillespie had informed everyone about a discrepancy on the Homewood Disposal website that talked about needing yard waste stickers. Tinley residents do not need yard waste stickers (other towns do).

Aireen Arellano was able to contact Megan at Homewood Disposal to let her know about the discrepancies on their website. The response was quick and Homewood Disposal added a copy line stating no sticker is required for Tinley Park residents.

FUTURE BUSINESS:

2021 Strategic Plan/Action Goals Checklist

Aireen Arellano would like everyone to put some effort into the EEC goals for next year and share some ideas on how to be eco-friendly during Covid-19 and the future. She will compile into one document and then we can figure out the goals for 2021.

Donna Gillespie looked at the village goals/strategic plans. 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

Donna read through the document and found Goal E is to improve communication with the public. On Page 10 it changes to “improve community engagement and tourism.” Somehow, somewhere from the beginning to the end of the document the goal changed. Already has a success rating connected to it. Donna stated there already is a % of residents rating the village as good or excellent. The goal would be Continual Process Improvements. Add accuracy and clarity to the EEC home page, related links and village publications to improve communication to and promote effective use of available community resources by Tinley Park residents.

Brenna Molinare suggested the following goals related to a more sustainable community:

- Education and more environmental awareness with climate change in the forefront
- Reduce/reuse, more recycling information to citizens
- Composting system for citizens and how food waste equals climate change

Evan Vogt suggested the following for the EEC Goals:

- increasing the committee's public presence via tabling/communication
- Connecting with other environmentally focused committees and organizations in our area
- Increasing knowledge about composting and access to composting resources
- Have ringers sit outside grocery stores to make residents aware of programs
- Earth Day program connecting EEC with Tinley and others in the area
- Interconnection between other communities such as the Sierra Club
- Composting. Need small, 50 gallon drums. How to like composting. It is lots of fun to put your scraps into the drum and turn into something similar to soil

Aireen Arellano suggested the following for the EEC Goals:

- Doing more outreach/more visibility
- Goal was to focus on the positives and what restaurants are doing to promote green initiatives

Jeffery Loftus suggested the following for the EEC Goals:

- Create a “green” restaurant guide for Tinley Park
- Help restaurants decrease their use of plastics
- More effort into establishing and promoting those businesses
- Nuway seems to shy away from recycling at large scale public events such as the block party and other large events
- Educate residents to not contaminate refuse with recyclables

Aireen Arellano likes the restaurant guide. Should not include the chain restaurants but the individual restaurants and their green initiatives.

Jeffery Loftus suggested a questionnaire to fill out with a questionnaire and if they satisfy a question or two they can end up with a sticker they can place on their door front letting the public know as well as having a subset on our set about green restaurants and what they are doing to be green.

Donna Gillespie stated as an example Village Pizza does not use Styrofoam. They use cardboard and paper. Also use foil and paper bags for their sandwiches. Should focus on those restaurants that do not use Styrofoam and those restaurants should get a gold star as they are doing a great job. Those restaurants are making a conscious decision to not use Styrofoam and are not land filling.

Hannah Lipman agreed the green restaurant guide is a great idea but need to be careful with the approach so it is not a shaming thing. Thinks it is something the village will want to be involved in so it is approached the right way.

Evan Vogt asked if it would be possible to get one of the restaurant owners or manager involved to guide us and give us ideas.

Aireen Arellano thought it was a great idea to get a restaurant involved with the correct messaging and getting the communications out. More of a partnership going forward.

Hannah Lipman agreed but with COVID-19 many businesses are struggling and do not have the focus for something like that right now. More of a focus for 2022.

Aireen Arellano agreed it is more of a 2022 goal. She suggested sending more ideas her way for her review as the ideas are thought of.

Aireen Arellano goals: 1) offer virtual events including a Webinar with ecofriendly tips and get people involved. Just because we are home does not mean we can't take actions to be a little greener; 2) Connect with other environmental clubs and Tinley Park schools. We can do more outreach and connect with more environmental groups. This goal was inspired by Denise's article about the solar panels at Lincoln-Way. 3) Establish Tinley Park as a leading steward of environmental consciousness through consistent communications as an example. Also aligns with a lot of the goals. Still need to put up the signs but we are leading with the rating of No. 5 in

the nation. Something to definitely be proud of. We can connect via the Patch to engage our residents and get them excited about environmental awareness. Need to connect and coordinate with marketing. Also need to order new shirts for our new members.

Composting in Tinley Park

Donna Gillespie shared information on composting. It would be great if someone can teach at the high schools and start a compost bin at the school.

Hannah Lipman reported that the EEC can use the village share file. Final step is to work with IT. Will have a confirmation by next meeting. Able to add personal email addresses and everything will be central.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote on the recommendation of WasteZero Program in the Village of Tinley Park

Aireen Arellano inquired if everyone was in agreement and willing to bring WasteZero to Tinley Park. All present in agreement to proceed with presenting the program to the village board.

Hannah Lipmann suggested submitting a memo to the board implementing this program.

Good of the Order

Aireen Arellano thanked everyone for connecting virtually during this crazy year and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Comments from the Public

No public, no comments.

Adjournment

Motion made by **Jeffery Loftus**, seconded by **Brenna Molinare**, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

/dmp