



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission  
Tuesday, March 9, 2021  
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 7:02 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  
Jeffery Loftus (remote)  
Brenna Molinare (remote)  
Nicole Ryan (remote)  
Evan Vogt  
Brandon Wigboldy (remote)  
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano
- Absent:** Frank Markowicz  
Hannah Lipman, Staff Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion made by **Brenna Molinare**, seconded by **John Houdek**, to approve the Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion made by **John Houdek**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus**, to approve the January 12, 2021 minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Commission. Motion carried.

**NEW/FUTURE BUSINESS:**

**Tinley Park Lions Club and EEC Recycling Event Partnership  
Welcome Guests Mary Jo Pivoney and Ron Kulak**

**Aireen Arellano** stated Mary Jo had reached out to the EEC and wanted the Lyons Club to partner with the EEC for a recycling event.

**Mary Jo Pivoney** feels really good about the event and the partnership. Pulling together the event now is difficult as there are so many days planned around Earth Day. She would like to host the event in September and make it a larger event with electronics recycling, collection of box tops for the Ronald McDonald house and a shoe collection. Hopes to use the north parking lot of the train station.

**Ron Kulak** has commitments from Nu-Way Disposal and ProShred. Nu-Way would have a dumpster available for any cardboard, paper and metal recycling. Nu-Way would not be in a position to take in any electronics as they already have that arrangement with households in Tinley Park by appointment. Same with hazmat materials. Still working on making arrangements as the EPA has to be involved. Spoke with Jim Ericson at ProShred. Usually charges a fee of \$350.00 an hour but might be able to get a discounted rate. It is in the realm of possibility that the board can vote on an onsite shred event with a 1 or 2 box limitation per household or car. The whole idea is to conduct this as a drive-thru and not have anyone leaving their car. Another idea is to collect material, clothing, towels, anything woven. The Village of Midlothian has a contact for that and he will get more information on collecting those materials. Can also have a shoe collection. Have to bind shoes together and put them in the receptacle. Need 30 days' notice and someone would be on site to organize the shoe collection.

**Mary Jo Pivoney** stated that the Tinley Park library is not really in a position to do anything outside of the normal business right now, however, since the event has now been continued to September they might participate for CD's, books, DVD's. Also trying to get the local police department involved to collect old prescription drugs. If not local police then possibly state.

**Aireen Arellano** stated the EEC has worked with EWorks in the past and we might be able to work with them for electronic recycling. The dates available were May 29<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>. She will let him know that the date has now been pushed back to September and we should have a better chance of getting a September date with them.

**John Houdek** said we are part of Orland Township and they have a recycling center. We might want to reach out to them to see if they want to help out with the event.

**Jeffery Loftus** stated that the Orland Township facility is serviced by EWorks. He also mentioned that maybe we can bring in our contact from Waste Zero into our community for helping with the textiles collection.

**Welcome Guest Tina Konieczki**  
**Ideas for Environmental-Themed Events**

Insurance broker who helps a lot of seniors. Has been available to seniors as a resource to help then sign up for Medicare and help them with social security. Looking for ways to give back through community events. Spoke with Dr. Nolan at Tinley Park High School and Wendy Bumphis regarding senior who need service hours. Would like to coordinate with the Village for

a “Spring Clean-up for Seniors by Seniors” on Earth Day as a great way to get them some service hours. Other ideas would be to help with gardening/planting and giving back to the community as things continue to open up. Would like to be a resource/contact person to help the community in any way she can and give back to the community.

**Aireen Arellano** thanked Tina Konieczki for attending and presenting her ideas. Open to looking into the other ideas.

Tina Konieczki had another idea to organize a toiletry drive with Together We Cope. Thinking of having a box in her office April 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> for the toiletry collection drive.

**Evan Vogt** suggested a trash tag day where you would clean up and bag trash in the neighborhood and then tag someone on social media for them to collect and fill a trash bag. It’s a way to get community hours and still keep social distancing.

**John Houdek** suggested the school convert hours to how many bags they fill.

**Denise Maly-Politano** suggested combining with James Calomino and his planned clean-up per his email. The problem would be having the kids cleaning up along a busy street.

**John Houdek** suggested having police or public works to help out for the safety of the students and have someone pick up the garbage collected.

**Aireen Arellano** will contact Jim Calomino ASAP to make final plans and ideas. Asked if EEC wanted to vote on this

**Aireen Arellano** presented a motion to participate in the spring road clean-up for April 24<sup>th</sup>. Nicole Ryan made a motion, seconded by Evan Vogt. All in favor.

**John Houdek** asked how we can make this happen because it’s quick. Evan Vogt did not think it was necessary to pre-register but rather have a designated spot to sign up/show up and organizing the day of. Believes there would be an issue of having more than 50 people show up at a time and if it was they would be spread out.

**Aireen Arellano** asked if **John Houdek** and **Evan Vogt** would take the lead.

**John Houdek** stated he will coordinate with police, fire and public works. **Evan Vogt** will contact Jim Calomino.

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

#### **WasteZero Program**

**Aireen Arellano** had a virtual meeting with WasteZero and Homewood Disposal on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Homewood Disposal (Megan and Frank) had heard about textile recycling and simple recycling services. Brought up a few concerns with Dave and he was able to address their concerns. Frank brought up a few questions and issues. Frank said they will make it happen if the

board approves. Drafted a memo to present to the village board for approval and sent to Hannah on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Thinking of an April presentation after elections so she can give this program the best chance of going through and waiting to present to the new board. She will drop the memo into the share file so everyone can review it. This is curbside at no cost, no certain condition of the clothing, educational opportunity for the community, increased awareness of reuse and repurpose, Tinley would be the first southwest suburb to adopt this program.

### **Garbage Website**

**Aireen Arellano** asked if anything else needed to be added to the link on the Tinley Park website. The change was all of the topics made into a drop-down. Using everything already on there just making it more user friendly and giving it a different design.

**Donna Gillespie** found it very user friendly and nicely organized.

### **Latest Links/Resources by Members**

**Aireen Arellano** asked EEC members to discuss their latest links.

**Donna Gillespie** found information on biodegradable poop bags. It would be nice to educate people and offer more biodegradable options and make suggestions to people that are not too expensive. She will investigate and share the links with everyone.

**Donna Gillespie** asked if the EEC knew what type of ice melt the village was using on village streets and sidewalks. She would like to reach out to Public Works and see what they are using and if it's the best option. There are a lot of options out there. It would be nice to do the research of and offer suggestions. She stated that some are more environmentally friendly than others for the ground and pets. There are lots of options out there. She will contact Public Works.

**Donna Gillespie** found organic earthworm castings being sold at Costco if anyone is interested in adding to their composting.

### **2021 Strategic Plan/Action Goals Checklist**

**Aireen Arellano** would like for everyone to think of 3 values that we would like to include in what the EEC should stand for. Please bring the ideas/values to the next meeting. We will discuss the most important and refresh our mission statement. (Read the current mission statement.) It is a little generic.

### **Sag Moraine and Monarch Butterfly Project**

**Denise Maly-Politano** has a contact at Sag Moraine. They want to work with suburbs to promote native plants and participation in the Monarch Butterfly Project through U of I. Sag Moraine has a bunch of different articles on the best plants in our area for insects, birds, etc. that could survive and help the environment. Links are also provided where you can purchase the actual plants to add to your yard. Help with planning the planting in your garden/yard, what pollinates and what certain plants bring into your yard.

Monarch Butterfly Project is trying to increase the Monarch butterfly population which has been dwindling. Certain plants and trees helps increase the population. Check out their websites and see if anything would be of interest.

**Aireen Arellano** thinks it is a good reference to be aware of. Donna Gillespie suggested including the information in the newsletter or blogs to educate and give the information to people that want to increase the indigenous population.

### **Good of the Order**

**Aireen Arellano** thanked everyone for connecting virtually.

**Nicole Ryan** reported on the Bartel Grasslands Cook County Forest Preserve cleanup on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> if anyone is interested in attending.

### **Comments from the Public**

No public, no comments.

### **Correspondence**

Frank Markowicz submitted his letter of recommendation effective immediately (read by Aireen). He will be missed. We will get him out to volunteer at our events in the future.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made by **Evan Vogt**, seconded by **Donna Gillespie**, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

/dmp