



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission  
Tuesday, April 13, 2021  
Tinley Park Village Hall – Kallsen Center**

**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. **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)  
Nicole Ryan (remote)  
Evan Vogt  
Brandon Wigboldy (remote)  
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano

**Absent:** Hannah Lipman, Staff Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion made by **Jeffery Loftus**, seconded by **Evan Vogt**, to approve the Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion made by **Evan Vogt**, seconded by **Brenna Molinare**, to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Commission. Motion carried.

**OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**September Recycling Event with Tinley Park Lions Club**

**Aireen Arellano** was able to contact with EWorks in the past and we can have September 4<sup>th</sup> as the date of the recycling event. They would need a map from EEC with location. They will provide bins and the truck. The event goes for 3-4 hours for EWorks, 8:00 to Noon or 9:00 to

Noon. TV's would be collected at a cost of \$25.00-35.00 per TV. The TV collection would be deducted from the cost of the event. The more TV's we collect the more we get a credit for. We would need lots of volunteers. EWorks also provides textile recycling. This would just be a collection at the event. They take everything from good condition items to rags.

### **Road Spring Clean-up with James Calomino**

**Aireen Arellano** thanked John Houdek and Evan Vogt for spearheading the details of this event. Cleanup will be April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 to Noon. Areas will be Ridgeland South of 183<sup>rd</sup> Street to the Odyssey Country Club; Oak Park Ave southbound from 183<sup>rd</sup> street to Harlem, and 94<sup>th</sup> Ave both sides from 175<sup>th</sup> Street to 183<sup>rd</sup> Street. Asking for EEC volunteers as chaperones and to help with signing everyone in. Everyone needs to bring gloves and safety vests. Bags will be provided. PW and the police department have committed to two safety vehicles each. Once filled PW will pick up the bags and dispose of the garbage. Everyone should meet at the police department where assignments will be given out. No one should be driving to the actual cleanup location due to safety reasons. EEC will collect name, school and graduating year. Prepared a flyer for anyone needing one. This will be a smaller event this year.

**Jeffery Loftus** asked if the volunteer form would have name, address, school affiliation and any other details.

**Evan Vogt** asked if there will be a volunteer service waiver for the participants to sign especially since volunteers are being transported to another location.

### **Textile Recycling Update**

**Aireen Arellano** stated the textile recycling is still on hold until the new board starts. Now that the election is over she will ask Hannah Lipman when the ideas should be presented to the board. Think sooner rather than later and May would be a good time to get everything running by fall.

### **EEC Strategic Plan: What are the EEC's Values?**

**Aireen Arellano** suggested 1) leadership; 2) community; and 3) sustainability. Leadership because there is so much innovation happening in the environment with sustainability and it's up to us to bring that to the forefront. An opportunity for us to stay ahead of the curve. Community is important in making that connection and wants the EEC to communicate with everyone about what is going on, contact Donna Framke and Jason Freeman to get the information into the newsletter and the use of resources.

**Donna Gillespie** suggested: 1) conservation; 2) preservation ; 3) sustainability and 4) stewardship. These are all related to environmental. Stewardship to use the resources we have. Others pretty much speak for themselves.

**Evan Vogt** suggested: 1) patience; 2) trust; and 3) ingenuity to bring new and exciting ways into the EEC and for trying new things. Patience for when we go through the governmental process it takes awhile so be patient with them and each other as things develop. Trusting in the process and each other and what we have come here to do as a commission and what our vision is in its entirety. Ingenuity to bring new and exciting ways of programing or informing folks about what

services are provided to them by the village of Tinley Park or trying new things. There is no such things as a dumb idea.

**Brenna Molinare** suggested: 1) innovation and 2) inclusivity – when we are engaging with the community we want to make sure that we are getting an equitable and just response to services.

**Latest links/resources by Members:**

**Donna Gillespie** spoke with Homewood Disposal about biodegradable cornstarch type poop bags and if those can be disposed of into the yard waste. At first they said yes but then Frank from Homewood Disposal said they discouraged putting pet waste into containers as everyone would not be using the cornstarch bags and that defeats the purpose. Bottom line: even though there are some good alternatives people might not use them. Donna stated we should consider sharing the alternative information in a blog. Look for alternative, what are my options?

**Donna Gillespie** also discussed the use of the village's ice melt and if it was environmentally safe. She contacted public works to ask what is being used, what products are being thrown out there, environmental friendly, cost analysis, etc. Talked to Jessica from PW who stated the village uses a beat juice based environmentally friendly product for ice melt but we don't really know. She does not see it being used on her street as it is colorless.

**Donna Gillespie** discussed mattress recycling. Americans dispose of 20 million mattresses and box springs every year. Some local stores will take your mattress when you buy one but they dispose of them, not recycle. We can throw them out and into the landfill too but that is not what we are looking for. Also reached out to a company for recycling. A Mattress Recycling Counsel exists in Connecticut, Road Island and California. They are establishing programs in Massachusetts, Minnesota and Oregon. Ohio is in the process of working on legislature. There are states that are working on a formal mattress recycling program. We do not have one here in Illinois but we do have a local company called Green Spring Recycling in Blue Island, Illinois. Will reach out to them and see what their company does.

**Nicole Ryan** asked what the fee would be to recycle a mattress. Would be interested.

**Donna Gillespie** stated they probably will have a fee. In the states that do recycle the cost is built into the new mattress when you purchase it. The Mattress Recycling Counsel would schedule an event. Green Spring might actually set up an event. Might be able to do that but would have to reach out to them and see what we can negotiate.

**Aireen Arellano** would be interested. Never heard of a mattress recycling event.

**Jeffery Loftus** stated its free if you bring mattress over there. They also do a pickup as stated on their website. If you bring the mattress there they will not charge you for it but there may be a fee for an event. Maybe we can roll such a collection into the Lyons recycling event or even have a secondary event. We should contact Green Spring first and see what they can do for us. Seems like they would provide the vehicles, collect and bring them back to their facility.

**Aireen Arellano** said March was women's history month and she discovered [amightygirl.com](http://amightygirl.com) which provides a collection of books and links to women environmentalists. Aireen also suggested copying the village of Oak Park and their political sign recycling program held after an election. This would be an idea for next year's election cycle as most people probably disposed of their election signs for this year.

### **NEW/FUTURE BUSINESS:**

#### **Earth Day Weekend Park Clean-up**

**Aireen Arellano** stated the park district wanted to issue a message to clean up the parks since we can't do a massive cleanup right now. Put out the message to be clean and shared information. The initiative is to get family and friends together to cleanup at your neighborhood park and share any photos at [info@tinleyparkdistrict.org](mailto:info@tinleyparkdistrict.org). Something to do with your family in a safe way.

#### **Network Building at Andrew**

**Aireen Arellano** asked what the parameters would be for anyone to get service hours. Reached out to Sherry Balestri who is the service coordinator at Andrew H.S. She was excited about partnering up with her for future events. If we have any ideas we should reach out to her. She was very forthcoming with information. Some rules: Do not let kids into private homes. Can cleanup the outside of people's homes, usually for a neighbor in need. Want to know what the kids are going to do, who they are going to be with, supervision, do they have to dress a certain way, don't want volunteers to bring/use any tools of any kind, no political stuff. If we give ideas she will suggest a way to make it work. Can do Easter baskets, collect socks, mittens, baby wipes, collect for the homeless. Also suggested [innerview.org](http://innerview.org) to give us some ideas community events that would qualify for service hours.

**Donna Gillespie** likes the idea of the list of things that are already approved. Great resource.

#### **Special Event Process**

**Aireen Arellano** stated that Tina, our guest last month had already done so much of the work and she will be going out on her own. In the future if we have an idea for an event like that we need to go to the village hall and get approval for a special event then they would coordinate with us the best way to go about that and what services we might need such a PW or police.

**Donna Gillespie** asked if Tinley Park ever sends out surveys to see if there is any interest in the community for such an event in the community such as the mattress recycling.

**Aireen Arellano** suggested contacting the Patch to see if they would be interested in putting out a survey for us. The Marketing Department has been very helpful in getting the word out for us.

#### **Good of the Order**

**Aireen Arellano** thanked everyone for connecting virtually and reminded everyone to stop by Evon's to order EEC shirts.

#### **Comments from the Public**

No public, no comments.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by **Jeffery Loftus**, seconded by **Evan Vogt**, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

/dmp