



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission  
Tuesday, September 14, 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 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

**Members:** Aireen Arellano  
Donna Gillespie  
Jeffery Loftus  
Brandon Wigboldy  
Nicole Ryan  
Teagan Wigboldy  
Roger Zylstra  
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano  
Hannah Lipman, Staff Liaison

**Absent:** Wesley Janicki  
Meaghan Kern  
Evan Vogt

**Guests:** Kathryn Gordon, Representative from Flat Can Recycling  
Catherine Bryla, Representative from Sag Moraine  
Peggy Connor, Representative from Sag Moraine

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion made by **Teagan Wigboldy**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus** to approve the August 10, 2021 minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Commission as amended. Motion carried.

## **OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

### **TEXTILE RECYCLING UPDATE**

**Hannah Lipman** provided details on Waste Zero and Simple Recycling with a go live/roll out date of November 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a mass mailing to all residents on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION UPDATE**

**Hannah Lipman** provided an update. No green energy is associated with this program. [Further discussion about electrical aggregation and other ways to “go green”.]

### **TINLEY PARK COMMUNITY EMAIL**

**Aireen Arellano** is looking for updates for the website and “ask the EEC.”

### **LATEST LINKS/RESOURCES BY MEMBERS**

**Nicole Ryan** reported on <https://fpdcc.com/>. This is a way for everyone to help with the environment and get involved and educated. Run by the forest preserve district of Cook County. Website posts where help is needed and any recycling events in the area. Instruction includes chain saw use, CPR, clean cut and burn, and various certifications. You are able to take the classes for free and report your hours. Bartle in Tinley Park has a lot of activities.

## **NEW/FUTURE BUSINESS:**

**Aireen Arellano** welcomed guests from Flat Can Recycling and Sag Moraine.

**Guest Kathryn Gordon** of Flat Can Recycling stated her organization collects and recycles aerosol products and propane canisters (camping size, 14-16 oz. or 1 lb.). Flat Can also accepts all aerosol cans except spray paint cans. Aerosol cans are 37% of the waste in landfills. Most aerosols can be recycled. Cannot recycle oven cleaners, Great Stuff or spray adhesives. Flat Can will accept paint, auto products, industrial products, etc. Cap and tip is removed and boxed up. Partner with QRS Recycling and Re-Poly from St. Louis who shreds the plastic. Very labor intensive process. Also works with residents and retailers with drop off sites such as Ace Hardware, businesses, municipalities and community organizers who want to do the right thing. Flat Can offers kits to recycle everything (minus the empty cans), biodegradable and reusable mailer, recyclable box, biodegradable bag, recyclable tape and prepaid shipping label. All components of the kit are recycled so there is no waste. Flat Can has partnered with two Ace Hardware stores. She can be contacted at [hello@flatcanrecycling.com](mailto:hello@flatcanrecycling.com) or (224) 484-0874.

[Further discussion about aerosol can recycling and other ways to “go green” with organization.]

**Guests Catherine Bryla**, Representative from Sag Moraine and **Peggy Connor**, Representative from Sag Moraine provided information on the native plant community and their organization. Sag Moraine advocates the use of native plants in residential areas and the community. We need our pollinators and pollinators need native plants to survive. Sag Moraine helps create native gardens. Pollinators include bees, moths, flies, butterflies, beetles, and birds. Bees are the most efficient pollinators and are crucial to the environment. Insects need native plants as the insect population has been plummeting. Insect population has decreased 30% in three decades.

### What is causing this insect apocalypse?

Lawn chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticide use leads to habitat loss. Need to introduce invasive plant species. Biodiversity = coming back. Less grass = more plants of the native variety. Birds spread seeds and restore the ecosystem. Pollination of flowering plants need insects.

### What can we do?

- ✓ Plant native plants which are easy to care for and require less water; designed for our climate; adapted to our soil; essential to our ecosystem; create a pollinator-friendly habitat; plant in clusters; reduce lawn size.
- ✓ Wait until after Mother's Day for first lawn mow to help foraging pollinators and emerging insects.
- ✓ Wait until spring to do yard clean-up.
- ✓ Decrease light pollution by using motion sensors or yellow or soft white LED lights that show downward.
- ✓ Better to have straight species than a cultivator.
- ✓ Ink Berries and Winter Berries make great cut flowers.

Want to get the word out and grow successfully. Working with Western Springs, Palos Park, Hickory Hills, Orland Park and hopefully Tinley Park. Already at the Tinley Park Farmer's Market. Works with Jerry at Wild World Gardens, Prairie Moon Nursery, and Prairie Nursery. Better to have straight species than a cultivator. Plant sale held in the spring. January – advertise, February/March – order; May – pick up.

### Good of the Order

#### Recycling Extravaganza Debrief

**Aireen Arellano** reported 12,000 lbs. of electronics collected along with 2,000 lbs. of textiles. Earth Paints collected 650 cans, 95 quarts and 5 -five gallon containers for a total of 2 tons. Lyons Club collected three large bins of pop tops, 1 large bin of eyeglasses, 1 large bin of hearing aids and 1 large bin of ink jet cartridges. Dart collected 4 huge bags of Styrofoam. Hope to repeat next year.

**Donna Gillespie** shared some thoughts. Thought more signage and a better labeled exit was needed. Also, radios would be helpful and tape.

Traffic flow and location was successful.

**Name Tags**

Denise Maly-Politano will contact Lisa Valley for ordering name tags for the EEC.

**Comments from the Public**

9/25/21 Homer Glen is having a Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics collection. Covers Will County with residents of Tinley Park Will County eligible.

Other ideas would be to visit SCARCE in Addison for recycling of books and games. Also, Batteries Plus for recycling of batteries.

Also need to revisit the use of flares.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by **Nicole Ryan**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus**, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

/dmp