



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
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 7:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

Members: Aireen Arellano
Donna Gillespie
Meaghan Kern
Jeffery Loftus
Brandon Wigboldy
Teagan Wigboldy
Nicole Ryan
Evan Vogt
Roger Zylstra
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano
Hannah Lipman, Staff Liaison
Guests: Cathy Bryla (Sag Moraine)
Peggy Connor (Sag Moraine)

Absent: Wesley Janicki

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by **Evan Vogt**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus** to approve the January 11, 2022 minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Commission. Motion carried.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:

SAG MORAINÉ NATIVE PLANTS PROJECTS

Aireen Arellano welcomed Sag Moraine members for attending and helping the EEC with this project. Looking for potential projects and partnerships with Sag Moraine and see steps required to proceed with each of the projects. One project was to have a native plant kiosk at Village Hall.

Cathy Bryla explained the various plant packages available for sale during the native plant sale and how the designs can be used for the Oak Park Avenue project/proposal. Like to plant the native plants close together to have natural ground cover and less weeds. Want to make sure you plant thick enough when it is not in someone's backyard getting daily TLC. No room for weeds to get in and thrive. Also helps with the bug metamorphosis when they fall to ground and can bury underground. Cannot do that with mulch and rock blocking their way. Suggested keeping bee attractors inside the garden. Lots of grasses on the outside holds everything together. Tallest plants in the center and everything else would drift down in size. Drifts of color, drifts of white and yellow. Everything will go down gradually in heights and there will be color from spring through fall. Always going to have multiple things in bloom with this suggested design. Twelve different species for a total of 171 plants. Blue aster is a good late season source for pollinators, behaves well in smaller areas and great for yards. Big Bluestem attracts moths and butterflies. Showy Goldenrod is a key plant for pollinators, moths and butterflies. This design will provide color for all seasons.

Evan Vogt asked about the depth of the root system. Need to find out if the planter bed is a cement bottom in the planter or dirt.

Cathy Bryla stated the grasses have deeper roots. You would have to take the grasses out if it's a cement bottom. Also has concerns with electrical underground, and the surrounding pavers. Hunch from looking at the picture she does not think it is solid cement underneath. Current plants and bushes would not be growing there if it was cement. Native grasses are made to grow in hard clay soil. Grasses would thrive and very adaptable. Is there a way we can find out? As long as there is not cement or pavers underneath, the clay soil will work. We can always adjust the plants and design.

Hannah Lipman will confirm with Public Works about electrical and if there is cement.

Teagan Wigboldy asked if the plants are dog friendly? We are a dog friendly community. The plants would need to be dog friendly plants on the outside.

Cathy Bryla stated the plants in the design are rugged, hearty native plants that you do not need to fuss with. Foxglove, butterfly weed, milkweed, fox glove, bear tongue, lilies are all toxic. A lot of plants are highly toxic if they eat too much. Also easy and affordable. Native plants are very hearty and should require very minimal care after the root system is established after 1-2 years. Can add compost and nutrients so that plants can root themselves.

Donna Gillespie suggested moving some of the toxic plants back as long as they have not been planted yet, why not move it in the design.

Brandon Wigboldy inquired about clarification on the cost.

Peggy Connor stated the retail price for 170 plants are about \$6.00 each. The \$400.00 is paid to Jeremy and a donation from Sag Moraine to Tinley.

Cathy Bryla said we want to make it easy and affordable and very appreciative that you are willing to put native plants in such a prominent area and show people how beautiful they are and that they are not weeds and lets all put some on our property.

Peggy Connor said we are estimating but now we have so many more plants in that circle.

Aireen Arellano thanked Sag Moraine for educating us on the native plants and how to plant them close to avoid weeds.

Cathy Bryla stated the extra \$100.00 was based on Jeremy's suggestion to add some compost to help with the fertilization and that would be added the day of planting. Jeremy would also be available the day of the event and explain the plants, how they are to be cared for, what they do, and how to plant. He will teach the kids as we go.

Donna Gillespie suggested having the Tinley TV channel cover the planting.

Cathy Bryla stated we would need to remove the old plants first. June 4th is the plant sale and will need to be picked up or Sag Moraine will take care of them until the day of the event. June 11th works best as it is only one week after the sale and when the plants come in.

Jeffery Loftus asked how deep we need to dig.

Cathy Bryla stated at least two feet, preferably three feet would be ideal.

Aireen Arellano stated there is a Farmer's Market that day.

Peggy Connor asked if we will be handling the volunteers for the digging, mulching, planting, etc.

Aireen Arellano thanked Sag Moraine for their input for the Newsletter.

Cathy Bryla suggested attending a Webinar on February 17th attended by Doug Tallamy who is a Professor at the University of Delaware. He is a phenomenal speaker. Sign up for the free webinar on sagmoraine.org, "Restoring the Little Things that Run the World". He is also the author of "Nature's Best Hope", and "Bringing Nature Home".

[Further explanation and discussion about native plants, native plant kiosk, types of plants and the benefits of certain plants. Round planting area on Oak Park Avenue near the corner by Banging Gavel would be the location. Also, where other planting can occur, park district, etc..]

TEXTILE RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Hannah Lipman received an email on January 20th from the textile recycling program. Two ways to schedule a pick up via online or by calling. Use only clean bag or box and schedule for pick up and place items at front door. Original contract says they are following our garbage and recycling pick up days and have not heard anything back from the email. Goes into effect February 7th. Sent an amendment to sign but its going into effect regardless. Contacted them and waiting to hear back. Feels like a bait and switch and we will be hearing it from the residents. Not what we signed up for.

Brandon Wigboldy thought it was interesting that they just drive around looking for orange bags to pick up on recycling days.

Jeffery Loftus looked at their website and did not find any open dates unless you looked months out.

Hannah Lipman said we can reach out to everyone through out newsletter but not everyone gets it. Originally it was a mass mailing. Company is not responsive.

Aireen Arellano heard less people were using the service than they thought. The goal is to work together to address these complaints. She will try to email her contact person.

ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION UPDATE + COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION PROJECTS

Hannah Lipman gave the update on electrical aggregation. Finishing up with the water bottle filling stations at the public facilities.

ST. COLETTA'S OF ILLINOIS PARTNERSHIP

Donna Gillespie suggested the EEC get involved and partner with St. Coletta's of Illinois. This would be a project for Christmas.

Resident Questions:

Gasoline Disposal

Aireen Arellano stated a resident inquired about disposing of gasoline. Heard back from Will County and their two sites are located in Chicago near Goose Island and one in Naperville located at 156 Fort Hill Drive.

Jeffery Loftus found on the EPA site that you can use the old/used gas in your car. Just a top off, don't fill your tank with it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bartel Volunteer Opportunity – Nicole Ryan

Tabled due to Nicole Ryan's absence.

Hannah Lipman stated we should get goals and dates formalized so we have more structure all in one place. Get short-term and long-term goals set.

Good of the Order

Brandon Wigboldy stated the Orland Township Highway Commissioner has partnered with District 230 and they now offer electronic recycling at all the District 230 high schools. Looks like it is open to the public for recycling at all the high schools.

Jeffery Loftus stated the top of the craft beer cans cannot be put in recycling. Need to recycle back at the craft beer brewery where they have a bin by the door.

[Discussion on possibly visiting the Nu-way site, potential dates, waivers, etc.]

Comments from the Public

No public, no comments.

Adjournment

Motion made by **Jeffery Loftus**, seconded by **Donna Gillespie** to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.