



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission  
Tuesday, May 10, 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 7:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

**Members:** Aireen Arellano  
Donna Gillespie  
Meaghan Kern  
Jeffery Loftus  
Nicole Ryan  
Brandon Wigboldy  
Teagan Wigboldy  
Roger Zylstra  
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano  
Hannah Lipman, Staff Liaison, Assistant Village Manager  
**Guests:** Kelly Oswald  
Sag Moraine (Peggy and Cathy)

**Absent:** Wesley Janicki  
Evan Vogt

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion made by **Nicole Ryan**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus**, to approve the Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion made by **Nicole Ryan**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus** to approve the April 12, 2022 minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Commission. Motion carried.

**OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**SAG MORAINES NATIVE PLANTS PROJECTS**

**Aireen Arellano** discussed the upcoming planting event schedule for June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 until noon. Please bring any garden tools, including larger shovels, knee pads, spade shovel, etc. and filled water jugs that day.

Cathy Bryla from Sag Moraine is thrilled with Jeremy's new design. Need to remove the sod, removing 2-4 inches of dirt and then amend the dirt. Should have JULIE out there for approval. Everyone should have garden gloves, shovels and possibly knee pads.

**Aireen Arellano** stated that Jeremy was able to redistribute the remaining plants. There will be four half-moon gardens around the circle. Need to remove sod and dig two inches. Will show up earlier to dig out the sod prior to the event, basically making a blank slate. EEC will have a sign "Tinley Park Environmental Commission is proud to support our ecosystem with native plants." Home Grown National Park is a great place to register the garden. Aireen will check with Evons to about plaque or maybe a rock for longevity.

**Donna Gillespie** stated if we are thinking of future gardens we need some sort of a map showing the gardens.

Cathy Bryla hopes to have a comprehensive map of all the gardens in the south suburbs. Right now there is Home Grown National Park which would be a great place to register the garden. Chicago Living Corridors map is also available but anti-climactic because you can submit your name for it and not actually get on it for a year. Very slow and non-technical. You can also become an official Illinois monarch butterfly weigh station. Trying to promote milkweed planting in towns and create monarch friendly garden. Sag Moraine has reached out to all mayors in the southwest suburbs. Not many have responded. More north suburbs are involved.

Peggy Connor suggesting trying to get the mayor to sign the pledge to promote the Illinois monarch project and milkweed planting. Palos Park, Westmont, Homer Glen and Palos Heights have had their mayor sign the pledge.

**Hannah Lipmann** suggested contacting the village clerk, village manager, trustees or others to get a response.

Peggy Connor asked if there will be a water source available. If not, please bring jugs of water.

Cathy Bryla asked how it will be watered to establish it. Jeremy provided the new design and will provide the soil amendment.

**Hannah Lipmann** stated there is a sprinkler system and a service. If not, public works.

[Discussion continues with Sag Moraine regarding planting, watering, ideal plant locations, new flyer, plaques, special event permit, etc..]

## **TEXTILE RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE**

**Aireen Arellano** reminded everyone to make sure they are using the Simple Recycling program.

**Donna Gillespie** asked if the recycling bags are still available at the village hall.

## **ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION UPDATE + COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION PROJECTS**

**Hannah Lipman** stated project was running behind schedule. Each water station is \$5,500.00. Six water stations total. Project is now done.

**Teagan Wigboldy** suggested the next project on the EEC list to be the flares.

**Jeffery Loftus** will contact person to see what is new regarding the FDIC Fire Department Conference as he was unable to attend the conference. There is availability. Just a matter of how much we have to spend.

## **ST. COLETTA'S OF ILLINOIS PARTNERSHIP**

**Donna Gillespie** contacted St. Coletta's. Took a tour. Dropped off supplies for bird feeders. St. Coletta's would like to join us at the Farmers Market. They will take pictures of those that have signed releases and give them to us. Nice facility. Thinks it will be a nice partnership.

**Aireen Arellano, Jeffery Loftus, Brandon Wigboldy** and **Donna Gillespie** participated in the tour.

## **2022 RECYCLING EXTRAVAGANZA – August 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Aireen Arellano** contacted participants from last year's event. Eworks, Flat Can Recycling, and Earth Paints scheduled to be there. Contacted MaryJo at the Lions Club. Other contacts include: DART, Homewood Disposal, Tinley Park Library, Share Your Soles. Mark from DART responded yes right away. Homewood will be bringing a larger dumpster. The library would like to partner with us and collect books, CDs, DVDs, etc. Share Your Soles will not be participating. Another company, Soles for Sole, might participate. Eworks will also collect shoes. Batteries Plus only takes rechargeable batteries or batteries with lithium. Most batteries people will bring will not be recyclable. Batteries have not been made with mercury since the 1990's so they are all trash and can be thrown out. Mary Jo also contact Andrew High School and Service Sanitation to set up one large port-a-potty.

**Donna Gillespie** contacted the mattress company and have not heard back regarding their participation at the recycling event.

Homewood Disposal tours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. if we want to tour the facility.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Farmer's Market Partnership – Guest Kelly Oswald – June 4<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, 8-12:30**

**Kelly Oswald** gave an overview of this year's market that has now been taken over by the village. Moving further away from the crafts and bringing in more food items. There will be more plants, food, produce, gardening, and focus on sustainability. There is a Grow With Us series. Looking for a nonprofit or a business where they would be the featured guest that has a focus on sustainability and environmentalism. They will get a platform to show what it is they do. Music with featured guests. stated the Farmers Market is looking to partner with organizations that support sustainability, environmentalism, healthy living and more. The possibilities are endless. Invited the EEC to become involved and help source a few more nonprofits that would be willing to share their knowledge with the community. The current roster includes twice a month family yoga, Morton Arboretum committed to one visit to talk about trees to plant in the fall, Sag Moraine attending in July, Orland Grasslands, Avery's Flower Farm, Tinley Park Library, and Starbucks educational services, to name a few. Vendors are charged \$400.00 for the season with no part-time vendors. Hoping to partner with the EEC to help find other connections in the community. Yoga instructor and musicians are paid. If a vendor, they need to pay for their space.

**Nicole Ryan** suggested inviting Honey Acre Woods in Lemont and Isn't Drinks, Jackie Berrilli, (773) 960-6668, [jackieberilli@isntdrinks.com](mailto:jackieberilli@isntdrinks.com) has very good non-alcoholic beverages.

**Brandon Wigboldy** suggested contacting Earth Paints to host an activity.

**Jeffery Loftus** suggested Flat Can or possibly any of the forest preserve contacts **Nicole Ryan** might have.

**Donna Gillespie** suggested the EEC having a booth at the market and partner with St. Coletta's.

**Kelly Oswald** stated one of the biggest complaints in the past has been no seating. Now we have lots of seating, a tented seating area with 5 high tops and 4 picnic type bench seating and Pekoe & Bean is joining the market this year so 5 high tops are near them, then there is the area by the fountain and the half circle by the music. Information can be found at [www.tinleypark.org/farmersmarket](http://www.tinleypark.org/farmersmarket) for all events, vendor list, music schedule and the map. From there we will slowly roll out who the presenters are. Do not expect the presenters to be there the whole time, though they are welcome to stay all day if they want to. Presenters would be mid-morning. There will also be available a branded reusable shopping bag. Popus Popcorn will also be having a branded reusable popcorn bucket.

#### **Earth Day Weekend 2023 – Epic Earth Day**

**Aireen Arellano** stated EEC did not do anything in 2022 but 2023 could be huge. Earth Day is on a Saturday in 2023. Information on the Forge in Lemont was provided by Denise. Nicole Ryan attended.

#### **The Forge Environmental Day 2022 – Nicole Ryan**

The Forge held an event at their facility in Lemont. Jeremy Bacon is the founder. They have conservation Sundays which are free for everyone to enjoy such as planting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and

kayaking on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jeanette at 630-234-3495 for more information and if you want to volunteer.

**Aireen Arellano** explained this event was a way for the community to come together. Filled with local speakers, removal projects, presentation by local leaders, high schools, grade schools, etc. Imagine EEC doing something similar with local business talking about initiatives they are doing. High school and their eco-clubs, local leaders give talks, entertainment, workshops, eco-theme menus, a destination event.

**Nicole Ryan** spoke with Sag Moraine while at The Forge. They are looking for volunteers at their plant sale and set up June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Also spoke with Toni Preckwinkle. She is the president of the forest preserve. Her office is willing to help us with anything we need. Also tied in with Bartel. Made a lot of contacts with various organizations that would want to co-op and work with us. DuPage Forest Preserves is also having a plant sale May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. There is also Ride Illinois that we can connect with.

### **Bartel Grassland and Forest Preserve**

**Nicole Ryan** reported on Bartel. Everyone needs to fill out a profile and sign up for restoration work days. Create a profile and record hours. Work days consist of tree health, brush burn, removing invasive plants, chain saw. Also have CPR/AED/First Aid classes.

### **10 Best Native Plants**

Indian Grass  
Hickory Grass  
Nine Bark  
Little Blue Stem  
Milkweed  
Asters  
Oak  
Hackberry Lead Plants

**Climate Change Webinar - Morton Arboretum**, has some free events, some \$10.00 donation per **Nicole Ryan**. Removing invasive species and planting native will help drastically. Best advice is to get out and enjoy environment while it is still around.

**Nicole Ryan** reported on Nature's Notebook. Sign up and decide where you want to study and record it. Scientists will use the volunteer work and data to help with sustainability and making a record of plants and animal life. Another way you can contribute and do your part.

**Aireen Arellano** attended the last Bartel. Very welcoming. Able to see the eagle's nest. Helped with a burn.

### **Will County Green.com Listing**

**Aireen Arellano** reported the EEC is on website, community green groups. Our contact led us to be on the Will County Community green group.

**Good of the Order**

Ethics statements questions. No need to fill out moving forward.

Also seeking other meeting days, times, options.

**Comments from the Public**

N/A

**Adjournment**

Motion made by **Megan Kern**, seconded by **Teagan Wigboldy** to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.