



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
Tinley Park Village Hall – Kallsen Center**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by Chairman **Evan Vogt**, at 6:04 p.m., Tuesday, October 10th.

ROLL CALL

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

Members: Chairman Evan Vogt
Erin Bradley
William Drobitsch
Dee Molinare
Denise Maly-Politano, Commission Secretary
Anne Mitchell, Management Analyst
Amanda Gaus, Special Events Specialist

Absent: Brandon Wigboldy (Assoc.)
Meaghan Kern (Assoc.)
Amanda Loxtercamp
Teegan Wigboldy (Assoc.)
Roger Zylstra

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by **Erin Bradley**, seconded by **William Drobitsch**, to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by **Erin Bradley**, seconded by **William Drobitsch**, to approve the September 12, 2023 minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Commission. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Earth Day 2024 Event Planning

Amanda Gaus spoke about combining resources to have an Earth Day event on April 20th. Looking for ideas on how to work together.

Anne Mitchell spoke about the Earth Day event last year where the EEC saw a steady flow of foot traffic and enjoyed speaking with vendors and visiting the Avocado Theory Food Truck. Had businesses that were environmentally friendly and family friendly with a theme around environmental businesses. Would like to see it bigger and with more participants.

Evan Vogt thinks it might be late to plan something for April 20th. Maybe the mayor can select a different date and avoid that date and be able to get those partners involved. Stated many people were looking for a clean-up idea rather than the vendor fair. Would like to see structuring into a cohesive event and what exactly is the objective. What do we want to see as an event? Do we want to get together and celebrate the event? Do we want to make it a learning event? A participation event? Idea is for bringing everyone together and highlighting awareness. Need to take what we did last year and make it a better focus. Have a number of community organizations, not necessarily businesses, and incorporate into community conservation.

Bill Drobitsch likes the service hours idea. Can we get people to help and earn service hours? Can we help seniors in any way such as with yard clean-up? Planting? Clean up of parkways? Have residents go out and see what can be done to clean up the community.

Erin Bradley would like to take models from Homewood. Have a cleanup and planting event. Still do something for Earth Day but not the high-tech involved one. Talked about rain barrel distribution, native seed distribution, tours of garden and talk about plants we have out there in the native garden so residents know what to look for and plant in their own garden.

Anne Mitchell likes the idea of having two events. One with something actionable where the community can go out and work together, volunteer, get service hours. Then repeat last year's event and connect with the public. Asked about the May calendar.

Amanda Gaus stated that April was chosen because that was the month of the actual Earth Day and a time when it was not that busy. May starts to get busy with events.

Evan Vogt suggested community organizations and services. What is Marketing's role? Understanding is you need a representative at each clean up location. The one event would be an actual cleanup and the other event would be bringing community resources together and have an educational event similar to last year. Have to contact community organizations that would be interested in participating.

Bill Drobitsch suggested calling it Earth Day Celebration Week.

Evan Vogt asked when it comes to service organizations and businesses, what do you think Marketing's role would be in this event? Asked if Marketing would be able to help be the contact person for organizing. Difficult for the EEC volunteers to do all of that planning. 27th would be the educational based celebration. 20th would be the cleanup.

Amanda Gaus stated obtaining a Special Event Permit, flyers, signage, business involvement, sponsorship, contact person, 20th cleanup, 27th celebration education based.

Denise Maly-Politano asked if we would still be having the scavenger hunt like we did last year. Have the residents participate in some way, not just going to a cleanup one weekend and then a party the next weekend. Have them participate and work some way during the week.

Anne Mitchell agreed. Said we need to advertise more so more people know about it and can get involved.

Eric Bradley suggested having people visit the businesses, take a picture to promote their involvement, etc. Tag the village, have a hashtag to somehow get involved.

Bill Drobitch suggested a benefit/reward to connect with Earth Week during April 20th to April 27th. Half price deals at a business or some other benefit to tie that business back into being involved.

Review Resident Resources Webpage

Erin Bradley reviewed resident page. Wants to keep up with bike lanes, public transportation, composting.

Anne Mitchell talked to Marketing about building out webpage. Suggested using “Environmental Resources” as a tab.

Bill Drobitch would like to add volunteer events to webpage.

Dee Molinare spoke about adding recycling extravaganza. Also found Art and Garden Market on May 11th. Have some information on native gardens and also add to webpage.

Anne Mitchell thinks being able to professionally market these events will increase turnout. Thinks EEC can participate with Marketing at the Art and Garden Market.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:

Commission Shirts/Name Tags

Anne Mitchell stated we have 3 vendors we can use. Ideas were a t-shirt with front pocket and an earth day design on the back. Sharp Mills, Green Promoting and Crossmark for quotes.

Evan Vogt suggested an athletic dri-fit polo shirt. Likes the pocket idea. Avoid purple. Suggested black or dark green polos.

[Shirt discussion ideas continued.]

Signage for Native Plant Garden

Erin Bradley researched signs and estimates and provided an email with attachments. Thought to have a QR code to direct you to the garden layout. Adjusted the font to better match branding.

Brandon Wigboldy (via email) suggested adding information about garden being a collaboration between EEC and Sag Moraine. Suggestion to list plants with QR codes.

Dee Molinare suggested adding website to bottom of sign.

Motion made by **Evan Vogt** to approve sign sample with corrections and make purchase of sign for the native plant garden. All in favor. Motion carries.

Recommendations for Future Village Projects

Tinley Park has a garden club that has planted multiple native plant gardens within the community. Possibly have cross participation with the garden club, absorbing garden club or have future events with them.

Evan Vogt is not opposed to working with any civic organization that supports our vision. Think it is a great idea. Would like more information about the garden club itself. What direction is the EEC going? Goals? Mission?

Anne Mitchell will have Kelly from Marketing reach out to the garden club with an introductory email, what their mission in, what direction they want to go, and possibly attend a meeting.

Bill Drobitch suggested providing guidance for non-park district land, senior centers, nursing homes, little league fields. Help with events or possibly gardens/beautification.

Anne Mitchell explained about the Senior Center and activities along with collaborating with Porter Place and dementia-friendly events for residents.

Evan Vogt suggested putting in more bike lanes and native plants for gardens that are going to be installed or redeveloped.

Erin Bradley provided a memo with general EEC recommendations. Revising the list and include avoiding invasive species. Have a section on responsible store water suggestions.

Anne Mitchell suggested having a packet with all the information in one place to give out.

Good of the Order

Evan Vogt would like to talk about meeting times and if 6:00 works for everyone or if we need to accommodate work schedules.

Comments from the Public

N/A

Adjournment

Motion made by **Dee Molinare**, seconded by **Erin Bradley**, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

/dmp