

**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Tinley Park Village Hall – Vogt Conference Center**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by Chairman **Evan Vogt**, at 6:06 p.m., Tuesday, March 12th.

ROLL CALL

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

Members: Chairman Evan Vogt
 Erin Bradley
 William Drobitsch
 Amanda Loxtercamp
 Dee Molinare
 Roger Zylstra
 Brandon Wigboldy
 Denise Maly-Politano, Commission Secretary
 Anne Mitchell, Management Analyst

Absent: Meaghan Kern (Assoc.)
 Teegan Wigboldy (Assoc.)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Brandon Wigboldy made a motion to approve both agenda and February minutes, seconded by Amanda Loxtercamp. Motion carries

Dee Molinare made a motion to approve the November 2023 minutes, seconded by **William Drobitsch**. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

Evan Vogt is stepping down as Chairperson. Looking for a replacement. **Anne Mitchell** said we have the option of having multiple chairs share the responsibilities and split tasks.

Amanda Loxtercamp asked to review the tasks of the chairman before deciding. Asked when we need to pick the new chairman.

Evan Vogt stated the chair is mostly internal and external communication, guiding us through our overall direction as a commission. A new chairman should be in place by May 1st. Tasks can also be divided within the commission.

Urban Canopy Composting – Chicago

Erin Bradley contacted Urban Canopy as they are in a partnership with Lake Katherine to do residential composting. Urban provides a weekly or monthly pickup for a fee. They are their own organization and operate independently. Service is available to all residents. Residents are free to

sign up on their own. Have to have enough residents in order to extend their services into Tinley Park. We would need enough interest for them to expand to Tinley Park. Already have composting at the amphitheater. Suggested having a central drop off with 35 gallon container Oak Lawn, Alsip, Chicago Heights, Homewood, Palos Heights, Matteson and others participate.

Evan Vogt said we would advertise to let our residents know about the program. We would not sign anything or enter into any agreement. Offer a service for residents.

William Drobitsch stated we are offering a service to the residents and we are standing behind that recommendation.

[Discussion on composting continues.]

Amanda Loxtercamp made a motion, seconded by **Dee Molinare**, to have Urban Canopy attend next month's meeting to explain the program.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Green Award Participation/Application

- **Erin Bradley** talked about doing an award for residents and also any organizations to recognize them doing eco-friendly things. Suggested keeping it open-ended to see how many people will apply, how we will select them, and see how it develops.

Earth Week Event

Erin Bradley stated this is a six day event with three social media days, two in-person events leading up to the earth day, including a social media event on Monday which is community clean-up, day two is three R's day – sharing ways to reduce, reuse and recycle, day three is a hike at 5:00 pm on Wednesday with the forest preserve; Thursday also in person with the South Cook Master Gardeners society will have an event at Village Hall at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center, Friday will be another social media type event. Saturday is the Earth Day Fair. QR Code is up and running. Vendors include:

- Citizens Utility Board is coming to hear about utility, solar and energy efficiency
- SAG Moraine attending and will give a tour of the native plant garden
- TPPL will attend and bring the book mobile with story time at 11 am. and 1pm. Will do an Earth Day craft and Storytime
- MWRD bringing rain barrels, doing stormwater run-off model, crafts
- Orland Grasslands
- Lake Katerine will have a table
- Possibility Place
- Citizen Climate Education
- ECO Club from Tinley Park High School with veggie and herb seedlings they are raising in their greenhouse.
- Free Native samplings to distribute from MWRD
- Forest Preserve
- Conservation at Home

- Metropolitan Water District will bring native tree samplings. **Erin Bradley** will ask if they will take unclaimed ones back, but otherwise will ask to bring 30 saplings.
- Five hundred native seed packets as giveaways
- Oriental Trading for crafts and a creation station at the EEC table
- 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. for the Earth Day Fair hours
- Giveaway of a native plant garden from SAG Moraine
- Talking with a vegan food truck from Orland and another from Calumet City

Erin Bradley stated we need a generic flyer at our table for information on the Recycling Extravaganza to start spreading the word. Also have a flyer with our QR code. Might be a good opportunity for people to sign up for the newsletter. Suggested giving away a garden, varies sizes and prices.

Anne Mitchell will reserve Kallsen. Need to submit a map as to how the tables will be set up in the room. She will order shirts and bricks for native garden.

Brandon Wigboldy suggested having a few tables for things to be worked on.

[Discussion on Earth Week details continues]

Signage

Erin Bradley stated signage that lists all of the plants is done. Hover over the entry and you will be directed to the plant garden. Now that this is done we can create a QR code. Need U-channel post for Native Plant Garden sign mounting installation. Sign will face parking lot. This is a general sign. We can think about adding more details later.

Farmer's Market – June through October

Try to coordinate the days the EEC would be there with others such as MWRD would be there.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Erin Bradley stated there are three bills before Congress:

- Native Landscape Act
- Prairie Lawn Act
- Monarch Act

No comments from the public, no public.

ADJOURNMENT

Dee Molinare made the motion to adjourn, **Roger Zylstra** seconded it at 7:23 pm.

/dmp