

**Environment & Energy Commission**  
Minutes of the September 3, 2013 Meeting  
Village Hall, Room 102

PRESENT: Commissioners: Bob Peterson, Carolyn Cullen, Brian Chang, Peter Hugh, Caitlin Jeffries and Townsend Bailey

ABSENT: Nick Bridge, Hanna Kwiecinska

STAFF: Karen Rozmus

The July 9 minutes were approved as amended.

**Chairperson Report:** Karen reported that Laura has officially resigned and the board may approve Nick Bridge as the new EEC Chair. Since Nick was not in attendance, Karen asked for a volunteer for temporary Chair. It was moved and approved that Peter Hugh act as Chair.

**Staff Reports:** Staff reports were accepted without comment. In the legislative report Karen stated that the Cook County Department of Environmental Control issued an ordinance that would require a surcharge on trash tonnages going through transfer stations and funding Cook County inspectors certified in enforcing IEPA regulations. Karen stated that the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency does not support the ordinance as proposed.

**Public Comment:** Observer Bill Burns offered information regarding energy efficiency loan programs being offered by utility companies.

**Discussion Items**

**A. Promote Water Conservation Practices**

Nothing to report at this time.

**B. Research Pesticide Avoidance and Native Planting Initiative**

Carolyn will remain in contact with Peggy McGrath to determine what she would like to do and if there is any action requested for EEC. Peter stated that any educational materials need to outline viable alternatives. Karen stated that she is working with Jim Semelka to recommend requiring landscaping companies to be licensed to work in Oak Park.

**C. Comprehensive Plan Workshop**

Nothing to report at this time.

**D. Green Awards**

Since the date was set later this year, the Awards Committee set a new deadline date for applications to September 20. Karen will forward applications to the committee. Bob reported that this year's venue is November 21 at the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Women's Club. Since the Village will not pay for alcoholic beverages, committee members are trying to get sponsors to pay for wine.

**E. Work Plan**

Karen will send the 2013 workplan and accomplishments to members to discuss at the October meeting.

**New Business**

Bob provided information on gasoline-powered lawn care equipment to be used in creating public education materials. Carolyn suggested adding information on natural pest control and native plants. Karen reported that she has budgeted for a lawnmower rebate program for 2014 and it would be good to have the educational materials to distribute at the event.

**Adjourn: 8:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Karen Rozmus