

Environment & Energy Commission
Minutes of the February 2, 2016 Meeting
Village Hall Room 130

PRESENT: Commissioners: Nick Bridge, Carolyn Cullen, Townsend Bailey, Alex Frank, Michael O'Rourke, Andrew Basney and Erin Daughton

ABSENT: Hanna Kwiecinska

STAFF: Karen Rozmus

The January 5 minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairperson Report: Chair Bridge reported that he attended a PlanItGreen meeting where the Elevate Energy presented a proposal to assist with solar installations in Oak Park. Chair Bridge and Commission Frank will a meeting on February 5 to discuss possible locations. There may be funding from DOE for structural and feasibility studies. Chair Bridge thanked Alex Frank for attending the quarterly chairpersons meeting while he was out of town.

Chair Bridge reported that there are currently no applicants for the open EEC seat and asked members to talk to those who may be interested. Ms. Rozmus reported that she had also contacted the OPRF High School teacher who works with their Environmental Club to see if there is a Junior aged student who would want to serve.

Chair Bridge also introduced Board of Health member Bob Danstrom who will be a liaison to the EEC for projects worked on jointly by both commission.

Staff Reports: Staff report from Karen Rozmus was accepted. Ms. Rozmus also reported that the West Cook Recycling Park proposal is one of six finalists for the Big Idea grant being funded by the OPRF Community Foundation. There will be presentations on the projects on February 25 at the Wire in Berwyn when a winner will be chosen.

Public Comment: None.

Discussion Items

A. Pesticide Awareness

Chair Bridge forwarded comments to the Midwest Pesticide Alliance for the final draft of the document. Ms. Rozmus will have the brochure printed for distribution at spring events.

B. Plastic Bag Ordinance

The updated flyers for business owners were distributed.

The online survey for business owners did not gather many responses so the deadline has been extended to February 26. The discussion will be placed on the March agenda.

C. Green Guides

Chair Bridge reported that he attended a meeting with about 50 people to talk about implementing the program. The meeting was hosted by Seven Generations Ahead and Green Community Connections. The first topic is waste and recycling and flyers were distributed to attendees to begin distribution in their neighborhoods.

D. Refuse Rate Review

Commission members reviewed information provided by staff on rate comparisons and recent bids information gathered from surrounding communities. Staff also sent the annual refuse report documenting Waste Management performance as well as recycling and diversion rates. After some questions to and answers from staff, members discussed the options available to the Village.

Commissioner Daughton made a motion stating that “The EEC recommends that the Village negotiate an extension to the existing contract and adding language in support of current and future waste reduction programs”. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frank and was approved unanimously.

Old Business

None at this time.

New Business

None at this time.

Adjourn: 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Rozmus