

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall, Room 101

Commission Members Present: Liz Lukehart (Chair), Lisa Boone, Tejas Shah, Cassandra West, Ramona Blaber

Commission Members Absent: Darryl Baker

Staff Present: Abby Zielinski, Civil Engineer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lukehart at 7:04 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda, and it was unanimously approved with no revisions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve the previous meeting minutes, and they were unanimously approved with no revisions.
3. **Public Comment:** There were no public comments.
4. **Community Waste Reduction:**

Chair Lukehart led a discussion for the EEC to share progress and identify next steps for the community waste reduction project. The discussion included:

 - Liaison Zielinski relayed information from Environmental Services Manager, Erica Helms, in response to EEC questions from the March meeting. The information included:
 - Oak Park residents are not permitted to put compost in yard waste bags per Village code. The moisture content of food scraps could be problematic for the hauler, and yard waste bags have a 50-pound limit for collection.
 - The Village's waste hauler, LRS, is not able to do a waste characterization study for us because the material from Oak Park gets mixed with other communities at the transfer station.
 - The Village Board of Trustees values case studies, and they are encouraged as part of the recommendation to the Board.
 - In order to find out if LRS can do a program with compost bins shared between neighbors, the Village would need to develop a program and propose it to LRS to see if it is feasible for their operations.
 - The EEC will aim to have a memo to the Board in September 2024 with a recommendation for the Village to conduct a waste rate study.

- The EEC is invited to table with Erica Helms at the Eco Extravaganza that will be hosted at the library on April 6th. It can be used as an opportunity to engage with people that may be interested in joining the EEC.
- Commissioner West and Chair Lukehart led the creation of a template of key information that should be found during case study research. Staff Liaison Zielinski will distribute the document to the commissioners after Chair Lukehart adds municipality names to the document.
- International Compost Awareness week is May 7-13. The EEC would like for more information to be shared about Oak Park's compost drop-off sites during this week. The countertop compost pails can also be advertised or possibly some given away for free.

5. **Electric Shuttle:**

Chair Lukehart led a discussion on the electric shuttle project. The discussion included:

- The EEC plans to conduct case study review for any similar projects in other communities and also research grant and funding opportunities.
- Chair Lukehart has meetings scheduled with the library and township to discuss this project.
- Commissioners Blaber and Shah will connect with other commissions (Disability Access, Aging in Communities, Transportation) about the project.
- The EEC aims to have a recommendation to the Board by September 2024. To start, research and outreach for the shuttle project will be a second priority to the waste reduction project.

6. **Adjourn:** At 8:10 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.