

## ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
April 29, 2021

### Conducted Remotely

Commission Members Present: Laura Derks (Chair), Mark Goldberg, Stephen Morales, Colin Taylor, Lisa Boone, Ravi Parakkat

Staff Liaison Present: Mindy Agnew, Sustainability Coordinator

Public Works staff: Director John Wielebnicki and Cameron Hendricks

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derks
- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve previous meeting minutes unanimously approved with none opposed.
- 3) **Public Comment:** Two Public comments were submitted and read aloud. Wendy Greenhouse, Concerns regarding Environmental Sustainability in Oak Park. The second Public Comment from It's Our Future youth students about community composting. Public comments will be circulated to the EEC members.
- 4) **Chairperson report:** Chair Derks invited 2 guest speakers Mac Robinet and Walter Willis to present on the composting discussion agenda item.

5) **New Business: 2 Guest Speakers and Public Works Director and Staff on Universal Compost program consideration:**

Resident Mac Robinet presented his recommendation for all-in composting program. Director of Solid Waste Agency in Lake County, Walter Willis introduced himself and provided a brief review of other municipal compost programs.

John W, Director of Public Works conducted a presentation discussion:

The current Municipal Solid Waste Collection contract is set to expire on March 31, 2022. Village staff is in the process of completing a request for proposals for these services and is seeking feedback from the Environment and Energy Commission regarding services for the next contract. With the current municipal waste collection contract expiring, the Village is in the process of crafting a request for proposals (RFP) to waste hauler contractors. During this process, the Village has an opportunity to modify services that may provide a more sustainable lifestyle for its residents. Before completing the RFP, Village staff would like to review the current collection program with the Environmental Services Division and seek feedback on potential options for future service. To assist in the discussion the following supplemental documentation has been provided.

1. Program Highlights and service options
2. Summary of Area Municipal Compost Programs

Agenda Item Discussion:

Chair Derks referenced considering educational component at a minimum putting educational stickers on carts.

Director Wielebnicki said Oak Park is part of the West Cook County Solid Waste agency and they did not charge the Village for a consultant review discussion of the RFP and stickers were part of it.

Director Wielebnicki provided an overview of the current program with the most impact in our food scrap and yard waste. A Consultant with the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency provided feedback on a Universal coverage program with the current 96-gallon or 35-gallon cart. John shared the idea of adding three more compost drop-off sites in other parts of Oak Park for accessibility for multi-family residents.

Chair comment – resident feedback at events indicated many in apartments felt access to compost service not equally distributed. Wants to entertain more additional drop off locations. John mentioned that independent contractors service multi-family buildings independent of what we are currently doing with Oak Park's residential contract. The outcome is everyone has a compost option. John indicated that in recent discussions with residents, feedback on a Universal program has been positive. Everyone controls their own cart for better operational consideration and mitigation of contamination. Discussion ensued with comments that an All-in universal program would help accomplish accountability and can be easier to educate and do enforcement like what is currently done with recycling. If the recycling cart is contaminated it is stickered by the hauler and not picked up until the contaminants are removed. Positive feedback from the commissioners for Director Wielebnicki on the Universal program with no additional questions.

Chair Derks mentioned new business for next meeting regarding discussion on EEC feedback for the RFP draft. Staff indicated a Greenest Region Compact sustainability framework would be sent in the package for the next meeting as well as anything Commissioner Morales brought up for discussion.

**6) Old Business:**

Entire commission thanked Commissioner Parakkat for his service.

**7) Adjourn:** At 7 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

**Next Commission Meeting TBD to schedule June virtual meeting.**