

Environment & Energy Commission
Minutes of the September 1, 2015 Meeting
Village Hall Room 130

PRESENT: Commissioners: Nick Bridge, Carolyn Cullen, Hanna Kwiecinska, Townsend Bailey, Michael O'Rourke and Andrew Basney

ABSENT: Commissioners: Peter Hugh, Alex Frank and Erin Daughton

STAFF: Karen Rozmus

The August 4 minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairperson Report: Chair Bridge reported that he attended the PlanItGreen steering committee meeting and they are still re-evaluating where they are going from here. He also reported that he attended the 3rd ProAction Café to celebrate 2015 accomplishments including report that the Wild Ones project has exceeded 200 butterfly gardens in Oak Park and River Forest.

Chair Bridge announced that the Interfaith Green Network Energy Forum will be held at 7:00 p.m. on September 3rd at the Library. The discussion will include Smart Cities, aggregation and local options and asked who would be attending. Hanna volunteered to attend for EEC.

Staff Reports: Staff report from Karen Rozmus was accepted.

Public Comment: None

Discussion Items

A. Plastic Bag Ordinance

Karen was unable to attend the August BAC meeting but will ask to be on their September agenda. Karen will work with Chair Bridge and Commissioner Cullen to a report with background information to include with their recommendation to the Board.

B. Pesticide Awareness

Chair Bridge reported that the Midwest Pesticide Alliance is revising their brochure for distribution in Oak Park and asked if information could be included in water bills and at Green Block Party presentations. Karen sent an article for the September FYI and will get information from the Waste Billing Dept. Karen also reported that EEC could have a table at Farmers Market on October 17. Commissioners O'Rourke, Basney and Cullen volunteered to attend the booth.

C. Green Awards

Karen has extended the deadline to September 30 due to the date change and put the information into the September FYI. Commissioners Bailey and O'Rourke will review the nominations and summarize for a vote at the October meeting.

D. Review 2015 Work Plan

Members reviewed the work plan containing the 2015 accomplishments and discussed items to be included in the 2016 work plan. Some ongoing items will remain and the new items will include: waste contract review; additional outreach on pesticide avoidance; and helping with public education on single-bag usage if the Board approves the EEC recommendation. Commissioner Bailey suggested that EEC begin to research best practices to promote a "circular economy" to raise awareness about the value of resources, which may be more beneficial and wide-ranging than a singular zero waste plan.

New Business

Commissioner Kwiecinska reported that noise along the Green Line tracks continues to be a problem for nearby residents and asked if EEC could research possible solutions such as noise barriers that are planned to be installed in new stations in Chicago.

Adjourn: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Rozmus