

# ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022

### Conducted Remotely

Commission Members Present: Liz Lukehart (Chair), Laura Derks, Lisa Boone, Carly Provost-Rizor, Ramona Blaber, Cassandra West, Emily Neumann, Madisyn Burke, Darryl Baker.

Commission Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Marcella Bondie Keenan, Sustainability Coordinator.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lukehart at 7:00 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 previous meeting minutes, it was unanimously approved with none opposed.
3. **Public Comment:** Staff Liaison Marcella Bondie Keenan read the following public comment aloud:

**Chris Donovan:** Submitted a public comment asking that a residential lighting ordinance be added to the commission's 2023 work plan. This has been an ongoing request originating from residents Mrs. Bonita Robinson and her son Vernon in 2018 due to the installation of intrusive exterior lighting fixtures by their neighbors. The issue and information from the "International Dark Sky Association" was presented to the Board but they did not respond. A lighting ordinance was added to the Environment and Energy Commission 2019 work plan but it was removed by staff before final Board approval. The issue was then brought to the Building Code Advisory Commission, who referred the proposed ordinance to the Zoning Board of Appeals, who ultimately gave it no further consideration. Mr. Donovan requests that the EEC amend the 2023 work plan at this meeting to include a residential light ordinance in order to reduce light trespass intrusions between homeowners.

#### 4. **Agenda Items:**

##### • **Introductions:**

- Chair Lukehart invites the two new commissioners to introduce themselves and describe what brought them to the EEC.
- Madisyn Burke begins by stating that she is a 16-year-old high

school senior who moved to the Chicago area 4 months ago. She became passionate about environmental science and environmental justice after learning about the General Iron strike in 2020. She plans to major in Environmental Science in college and joined the commission to get more involved.

- Emily Neumann (she/they) lives in Oak Park and owns an ecofriendly flower and plant business in Forest Park. She joined the commission because she believes that the community could be more sustainable and she wants to be part of the movement.
- The other commissioners go around and introduce themselves to the new members.
- Marcella Bondie Keenan describes how the recent change in the commission's chair happened. Lisa Boone expresses her frustration with the lack of communication to commissioners when there is a big change like this. She continues on to express her gratitude to the former chair Laura Derks, who confirms that this change was not expected to happen so soon. Chair Lukehart agrees that there should be better communication going forward.

- **2023 Work Plan:**

- Chair Lukehart states that the commission will finalize the 2023 work plan tonight and take a break from meeting until the work plan is formally approved by the board.
- Marcella Bondie Keenan screen shares the most recent version of the 2023 work plan for review and walks through the structure and projects for the new commissioners.
- Chair Lukehart updates the work plan with youth-focused outreach projects that she recently discussed with new commissioner Madisyn Burke. Laura Derks states that youth energy ambassadors should be compensated for their work. Madisyn Burke states that recognition would be more valuable than compensation, perhaps with an article in the Wednesday Journal or an award. Darryl Baker agrees but says that the stipend should still be available. Discussion ensues about the role of youth ambassadors in the work plan. Marcella Bondie Keenan asks how much money to put in the work plan? The commission agrees on \$1000.
- Marcella Bondie Keenan continues on to discuss the remaining 2023 work plan projects with the appropriate commissioners and fills in the missing details. Emily Neumann agrees to work with Laura Derks on the biodiversity project. Emily Neumann and Madisyn Burke sign up to organize the 2023 Green Awards.
- Darryl Baker expresses concern that the work plan might be too ambitious. Madisyn Burke agrees. Chair Lukehart states that the commission calendar will adjust to accommodate the time needed for smaller groups needs to meet. Lisa Boone suggests bringing in

community partners to help achieve the goals in the work plan. Marcella Bondie Keenan also mentions that work plan can always be amended if there turns out to be limited capacity for certain projects.

- Chair Lukehart asks for a motion to approve the 2023 work plan. Darryl Baker makes a motion to approve, Lisa Boone seconds, and it was unanimously approved with none opposed.

- **Commission Calendar:**

- Marcella Bondie Keenan explains that the commission as a whole should not be working on new initiatives until the 2023 work plan is approved by the board. This likely means no meeting until February.
- Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, all commissions are required to meet in-person at Village Hall. The meetings will still need to be recorded so scheduling around other commission meetings could be difficult.
- The group agrees to discuss and decide on the frequency of meetings going forward at the February meeting.

- **New Business:**

- No new business.

- **Adjourn:** At 7:00 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

**The next EEC meeting is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Village Hall, Conference Room 101.**