

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall, Room 124

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

Commission Members Absent: Cassandra West

Staff Present: Abby Zielinski, Civil Engineer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lukehart at 7:05 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:
 - Chair Lukehart summarized ideas resulting from her meeting with Gary Cuneen and Jen Nelson of Seven Generations Ahead (SGA). Jen Nelson is aware of communities that allow compost to be placed in yard waste bags and communities that have completed waste characterizations studies through their contracted waste hauler.
 - Follow-up notes: Use of yard waste bags for compost is not permitting in Oak Park, per Village code. LRS is not able to provide a waste characterization study for the Village of Oak Park.
 - Jen Nelson is also aware of some schools that receive waste characterization reports. SGA provided recommendations for case studies, including Portland and Seattle. Village staff will follow up regarding potential options for piloting a shared compost bin program.
 - Follow-up note: The Village would need to develop the program and propose it to LRS to see if it is feasible for their operations.
 - The EEC discussed ideas for outreach, including potential involvement in the April 6th environmental event hosted by the library, surveys included as water bill inserts, and collaboration with other communities.
 - Commissioners Baker and Shah will reach out to universities to inquire about the process for conducting a rate study.

- Commissioner Blaber recommended online resources that were distributed to the EEC after the meeting. Commissioner Blaber will reach out to the NRDC.
- All commissioners will review case studies.

5. **Electric Shuttle:**

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

- The EEC will coordinate with other groups in the community to gain support for this project and provide a recommendation to the Board to perform a feasibility study. The feasibility study will likely consider factors such as how the shuttle will be funded, how much it will cost for residents to use the shuttle, how many buses and routes would be provided. Chair Lukehart has initiated coordination with the Park District of Oak Park and the Oak Park Public Library.
- Commissioner Shah will reach out to the Vision Zero group to collaborate on this project.
- Chair Lukehart will discuss this project with the PlanIt Green group.
- Commissioner Blaber will reach out to other Oak Park commissions.

6. **Workplan Task Management:**

The EEC will discuss the timeline for the community waste reduction project at the next meeting. The EEC will determine a timeline for the electric shuttle project after they gauge interest from other commissions.

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