

Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
Tinley Park Village Hall – Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by Co-Chair **Erin Bradley**, at 6:02 p.m..

ROLL CALL

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

Members:	Amanda Loxtercamp, Co-Chair
	Erin Bradley, Co-Chair
	Elizabeth Taylor
	Evan Vogt
	Brandon Wigboldy
	Roger Zylstra
	Denise Maly-Politano, Commission Secretary
	Anne Mitchell, Management Analyst
Absent:	Dee Molinare
	Meaghan Kern (Assoc.)
	Teegan Wigboldy (Assoc.)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

Brandon Wigboldy made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by **Evan Vogt** and also made a motion to approve the January 14, 2025 minutes with revisions. Motions carry.

NEW BUSINESS:

Visitor from Palos Green Team

Tara Taylor, Education Coordinator from Lake Catherine Nature Center. Here representing the green team.

Erin Bradley asked how do you envision this coming together?

Tara Taylor stated she has an educator's round table once a month to share ideas. Wants to get everyone together to discuss ideas and what other towns are working on and doing. What's changing, what other towns are working on. Ideally would try to work with more localized towns before branching out further.

Evan Vogt asked if this is part of a Green Team?

Tara Taylor explained that the Green Team is made up of Lake Catherine Nature Center, the recreation department, public works, city hall all help to create green initiatives. Also they offer composting, a clean-up day, and educate residents how to apply more green initiatives into their lives. Trying to create green initiatives in Palos Heights. We are a group that wants to do our part for the environment and informing the public about what they can do.

Erin Bradley stated that is a close fit for the EEC. Explained the EEC events and we have a dedicated email address. Discussing what we have in terms of policy recommendations. Want to work with the village as a whole and see how the EEC can more fit in.

Tara Taylor stated they are still trying to figure out if they are Lake Katherine's Green Team or Palos Heights? At the rec center we have green tips to show ideas to the residents.

EEC tasks explained by **Erin Bradley** and **Evan Vogt**. **Evan Vogt** explained how the EEC was involved in the village's garbage contract. Have both hard and soft things we are doing. Help village transition over to reusable road flares, attempted to get the village into recyclable textiles, explored composting and having that come into our village. Then we have our events we work on. Started a pilot program of green awards.

Erin Bradley talked about Urban Canopy and composting. Talked about how residents and businesses apply and talk about green initiatives for their home or business, solar, energy efficiency. The award is made of recycled glass.

Brandon Wigboldy stated the EEC also tries to address what can be recycled and what cannot and how to help residents recycle if they live in a condo or townhouse.

[Discussion on EEC tasks and Lake Catherine Green Team continues.]

Resident Inquiries/Email Updates

Amanda Loxtercamp received an email from a resident asking about Pine Lake shore erosion. Wondered if there was a regulatory or statute address this issue? Directed him to other contacts at public works. Really can't make any more recommendations for him.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:

WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER UPDATES/GREEN CORNER/COMMUNITY EMAIL UPDATES

Elizabeth Taylor suggested a plastic free day for February. Also thinking about doing something with the green awards but that might be better for March.

Erin Bradley suggested "mark your calendar for 4/26" so residents know about the activities. Have it in the March and April newsletter.

GREEN AWARDS

Erin Bradley and **Amanda Loxtercamp** will contact the winners and discuss the presentation and get their consent to have them in the newsletter and have a spot on the website. Next month we are planning to bring the application back so we can get it finalized for next year and try to move it a little bit faster this year. Hope to have it finalized and out at Earth Day.

Erin Bradley suggested getting Open Bottle's consent to advertise that they are one of the winners. Wants to add something to application about the rubric being used for selecting. Added

bullet points of stated goals and objectives of the EEC. Plan is to send to each entity from the EEC email.

Native Garden Update

Erin Bradley would like to increase pressure closer to Earth Day for the Native Garden.

Evan Vogt stated public works is waiting for the ground to thaw so it can be finished.

EARTH DAY 2025 PLANNING

Earth Week 2025 April 21st to April 25th. Earth Day Fair April 26th from 10am to 2pm.

Erin Bradley stated we have Cook County Forest Preserve, Cook County Master Gardener's, Sierra Club, Tinley Park Public Library with the Bookmobile, Lake Katherine, Village of Tinley Park with Farmer's Market. Waiting to hear from the Beaver group. Still waiting to hear from MWRD. Will reach out with an email to them this week. Worm composting demonstration. Everyone attending and participating in Earth Day is a not-for-profit except for Possibility Place. She will reach out to MWRD, Possibility Place, CUB, Sag Moraine and others. Have not heard from Homewood Disposal. Wondering if we should make a blanket policy that we only have not-for-profit or advocacy programs as someone last year wanted to come for recruiting. Cook County Forest Preserve will be having a Birding 101 event on Earth Day at the Forest Preserve located at the four corners - Kildare Meadow, Northwest corner of Flossmoor Road and Central Avenue. Masters Gardeners will have a presentation on Tuesday or Wednesday on rain garden, composting or something along those lines. We will have a series of events throughout the week, cumulating with the fair on April 26.

Evan Vogt suggested keeping it invite only and we would have the right of first refusal.

RECYCLING DATE 2025 PLANNING

Erin Bradley stated the recycling date and place is reserved for August 23rd; we just do not have the permit yet.

Amanda Loxtercamp emailed Lyons Club with the date. Waiting for permit. For all vendors, we need a contact person and email confirmation to EEC email so we can keep informed about all vendors and not have MaryJo at the Lyons Club as the only contact person. Trying to have more of a paper trail and a record of emails and have everyone included. Lyons Club would really like to have this event in the spring but EEC is not able to do the event in the spring. Earth Paint and Homewood Disposal are locked in. Dart wants to continue to work with us. Lyons Club has a meeting on the 18th where she will get it approved that Lyons Club will order and pay for the porta potty. Need to talk about how to handle volunteers. We never seen to have a good headcount of the number of volunteers we will have. Also would like to pursue shredding on that day and collecting hazardous materials. Orland Park had a collection.

Erin Bradley suggested having final confirmation in writing to our official EEC email. We can do table shredding until spring and work out logistics.

Evan Vogt thinks shredding is a good idea to have. Found a Naperville website on hazardous collection. Compressed gas, peanut oil, etc. Do not take paint.

Anne Mitchell does not have an Orland Park contact but will look into it.

Brandon Wigboldy would like to have someone at the recycling event that can deal with chemicals, gas, etc. as there is a demand for collecting and disposing of chemicals. Also would like to find out what vendors Orland Park uses for hazardous waste and possibly have them at our event. Asked if we have the EEC table cover yet.

Anne Mitchell has the table cover.

Erin Bradley would like to discuss Farmer's Market dates at the next meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Irish Parade March 9th.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public, no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Evan Vogt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Erin Bradley**. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

/dmp