

Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, October 14, 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 6:08 p.m..

ROLL CALL

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Roger Zylstra made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by **Paul Michael Yedwofski**. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Paul Michael Yedwofski made a motion to approve the September 9, 2025 minutes, seconded by **Amanda Loxtercamp**. Minutes approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Strategic Plan

Erin Bradley stated that since most of the commission was not present, she would ask the whole commission to review the current draft of the strategic plan and have an in-depth discussion for the next meeting.

Amanda Loxtercamp - focus on goals and objectives for next month's meetings. Want to focus on feasibility of the current goals and objectives. **Erin Bradley** stated the goals and objectives were from the 1970's and what the process would be for changing the charter. **Elizabeth Taylor** was also concerned what the commission's role of bringing in experts on certain fields to address the issues of the goals.

Amanda Loxtercamp wants the commission to see where they align their top two objectives. Need actional able goals/and timeliness.

Anne Mitchell mentioned the Village is going through their own strategic plan process right now and the finalized version will be available likely in the end of the calendar year.

Erin Bradley expressed interest in seeing if the new strategic plan has any topics related to the interests of the commission.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:

2025 Green Awards

Commission discussed submissions for the Green Award. There is concern that businesses are unaware of this award since there were no submission for the 2025 award. They discussed different ideas to promote the award to the business community in the future. They will revisit.

Erin Bradley stated the idea was to identify the winners tonight and have them come to the November meeting for their award.

Amanda Loxtercamp thought it was a landslide with not a lot of room for suggestions.

Elizabeth Taylor, Roger Zylstra, Amanda Loxtercamp and Erin Bradley all agreed on resident three as the residential winner.

Erin Bradley will confirm the spelling of their names and how they want it listed on the award before placing the order.

Amanda Loxtercamp suggested having the entire commission take pictures with the winners. Asked if everyone wanted to wear commission t-shirts or dress up more.

Elizabeth Taylor's concern was that if one person forgot to wear the t-shirt, it would mess up the picture.

Erin Bradley went out and did a better inventory of what is currently in the four beds of the Native Garden. A lot of the plants to be removed are Black Eyed Susans which are biannual and will die off after this year. Grasses in west bed, milkweed in north, four seasons of pollinators and compact plants in the south bed. Provided an updated list of what we need to purchase. Total of forty-one plants and certain supplies from Menards. Possibility Place will not have everything but will be able to provide a big chunk. Contacted Jimmy Quinn in PW for watering. She sent out an email for everyone's availability for work days on the garden. Please fill out your availability on the Doodle. If watering does not work out, she has five gallon jugs.

Anne Mitchell thought we might have access to the slop sink in the maintenance closet so we might be able to get water there. There are sprinklers in the main lawn area but the sprinklers do not hit the garden enough.

Elizabeth Taylor stated for native plants you want to water them to get them established then they should be ok.

Erin Bradley stated it would be about a month that we need to have consistent watering of the plants. Budget has not changed. Once we get date settled then she will contact Possibility Place for purchase.

Amanda Loxtercamp asked if we want to plan signs for the garden. Don't want what happened last year to happen again to the new plantings.

Erin Bradley said Possibility Place has a "Leave the Leaves" sign we can get from them. The four outer beds will look very tidy with the new plants. The interior is a big messy. Giant Fox Tail has to be removed.

Anne Mitchell stated it would not hurt to have some signage and also to let the groundskeeper know the garden should be left alone.

Amanda Loxtercamp stated the whole area already looks a lot better than it did last year.

Elizabeth Taylor will tie in the native plant garden with the Leave the Leaves segment in the newsletter so everyone is aware of the native plant garden.

NEWSLETTER UPDATES

Elizabeth Taylor stated September went out late. For October it will be Leave the Leaves, autumn/fall planting is a great time to spread seeds and then will look beautiful in the spring.

FARMER'S MARKET

Erin Bradley emailed to find out availability for working at the Farmer's Market. We will probably not work another Farmer's Market this year as most people are not available to work so we will cancel the other dates. Maybe give Kelly Oswald a bag of seeds and encourage residents to plant native seeds in the fall. We will regroup for spring.

EEC EMAIL

Erin Bradley received two very similar emails from high school students. Asking about how we deal with questions from residents and how/why we should care about the environment. Responded with more detailed emails then they probably care to read.

WEBSITE UPDATES

Erin Bradley noticed the village has a rather extensive sheet/page on recycling and would like to link that to the EEC page.

VILLAGE COLLABORATION UPDATE

Erin Bradley thanked **Anne Mitchell** who sent out the memo to marketing. Hope we can get involved with other entities in the village and identify other areas where we can work with the village.

UPCOMING WORK: IDENTIFICATION OF VILLAGE PROPERTY FOR POTENTIAL GARDEN SITES; FUTURE POLICY; ORDINANCE & CODE PRIORITIES; METROPOLITAN MAYOR'S CAUCUS RECYCLIGN INITIATIVE

Erin Bradley explained the Mayor's Caucus are mayors in Chicagoland that come together to try to increase recycling. The rate of recyclable products that are recycled the right way. They are trying to increase percentage across the suburban and the City of Chicago. Speaker reached out wanting to know how we are involved in recycling in Tinley. Her goal is to see if she can provide anything or if we can provide anything about recycling. She will reach out to **Brandon Wigboldy** to see if he knows what our numbers are. Speaker will be out to speak to us in the new year.

Micro-Garden and Micro-Forest on village properties. Trying to look into a Green Grant for possibly funding. Also found a garden club in Arlington Heights and one in Markham that was planted on county property. This garden is planted in a grid pattern. Something to think about if we can plant a micro-garden or a micro-forest somewhere. Think about future priorities and strategies and maybe that fits in. Possibly trees for parkways. She will distribute the article to everyone. Good time to look at the strategic plan and how much of a priority it would be.

Elizabeth Taylor thinks it is a great idea, and has never heard about that before. Would like to pursue micro idea.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Erin Bradley stated that **Evan Vogt** said he has a consistent conflict with the current meeting time and asked if we can do something about it. Since he is one of the longest members, she would like to see if we can work with him for a solution.

Amanda Loxtercamp also stated she has a work conflict as she has to leave work early to make it to the EEC meetings. Is there a possibility that we change the meeting time to a later time? Don't know if that works with everyone else or if that is something we should consider or not.

Anne Mitchell stated we can revisit when everyone is available and possibly change the meeting time.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Anne Mitchell received an inquiry from Elian Electronics Recycling. Want us to know they are resource we can use. [Distributed information to everyone.]

Elizabeth Taylor asked if we can work with them about recycling string lights from holiday decorations.

Erin Bradley suggested sitting out by the firepits at Harmony Square and advertise it as a fireside chat with the EEC and possibly a holiday lights collection for recycling.

Elizabeth Taylor thought it was an awesome idea even if it is just the EEC collecting lights in a couple of buckets then bringing the collection to a recycling center ourselves.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by **Amanda Loxtercamp**, seconded by **Paul Michael Yedwofski**. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.