



1200 Wilmette Avenue
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

**MEETING MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY COMMISSION**

**MONDAY, JULY 23, 2018
6:30 P.M.
VILLAGE BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

Members Present:

Chris Dunn
Amanda Ault
Rebecca Boyd
Nathan Kebede
Linda Kurtz
Tim Perry

Members Absent:

Arthur Haut
Michael Kim
William Munro

Staff Present:

John Adler, Director of Community Development
Kate Amoruso, Assistant to the Director of Engineering & Public Works

Guest:

Jeff Axelrod

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Dunn directed the Commission's attention to the draft minutes of the Environmental and Energy Commission meeting of March 19, 2018.

Chairman Dunn called for a motion that the Commission approve the minutes as drafted. Commissioner Boyd moved to approve and Commissioner Kebede seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved as drafted.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Dunn explained that the Greenest Region's Compact 2 (GRC2), the Chicago Climate Charter, and the Climate Mayors would be discussed by the

Commission, and that a recommendation could most likely be made by the end of the meeting to the Village Board on which to proceed with.

IV. DISCUSSION OF CLIMATE MAYORS, THE CHICAGO CLIMATE CHARTER, AND THE GRC2

Kate Amoruso reminded the Commission that the Village Board asked the EEC to review the requirements and impacts of each of the charters in question.

Ms. Amoruso explained that Climate Mayors is a pledge-only organization with no binding commitments and that it is simply a goal to reduce emissions. Any budgetary impact would be controlled by the Village. Ms. Amoruso noted a correction to the information presented last meeting by Edith Makra of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, clarifying that Climate Mayors was founded in 2014, and not created in response to the United States exiting the Paris Climate Accord. However, Climate Mayors has gained significant traction since the US withdrawal, and therefore may still be perceived as political in nature.

The Chicago Climate Charter is pledge-based and involves tracking and publicly reporting emissions reductions. The reporting requirements have not been released; therefore, budgetary impacts and staff time commitments are unknown. Additionally, joining the Chicago Climate Charter could also be perceived as political in nature.

The GRC2 would require a resolution to be passed supporting the Consensus Goals. Since there are no reporting requirements, any budgetary impact would be controlled by the Village. The GRC2 also comes with a robust framework tool.

Commissioner Perry clarified that the Commission can recommend one, two, or all three of the items to the Village Board.

It was also clarified that the Chicago Climate Charter is the only one of the three agreements that would require reporting, but it is still not known how that would be done. Because the Chicago Climate Charter does not have a developed reporting platform yet, Staff's suggestion is to wait to see what exactly the Charter will require before signing on. Instead, Staff recommends using the GRC2 Framework to set specific goals, or even create a sustainability plan.

Commissioner Ault agreed that from a regional perspective, supporting the GRC2 would make the most sense, and that the Chicago Climate Charter can be pursued at a later date.

Commissioner Boyd noted that there are some very laudable goals contained in the Chicago Climate Charter, and suggested that the Commission adopt some of those goals, emphasizing the importance of the role of local governments and businesses in working towards climate change.

Commissioner Kebede noted that whether or not the Chicago Climate Charter or Climate Mayors would be perceived as political in nature, the goals outlined in the GRC2 does not have the same potential to be politically controversial.

Ms. Amoruso added that many goals within the various agreements overlap, and that the GRC2 Framework is perhaps the most robust, while also giving the Village the flexibility of setting goals specific to our community.

Commissioner Boyd advised that the Commission be less concerned with politicizing the issue, and make a choice based instead on what meets the needs of Wilmette specifically.

Commissioner Kurtz emphasized the importance of science over political views in relation to climate change, and the importance of recognizing what the Village has already accomplished towards being more environmentally sustainable. Ms. Amoruso explained that the GRC2 Framework would provide us with a way to do this while also identifying specific goals and priorities.

Mr. Adler reminded the Commission that in their referral, the Administration Committee asked the EEC to focus on items that would not have a budgetary impact. Mr. Adler suggested that, with the help of Village Staff, the Commission first identify Wilmette's previous accomplishments, then prioritize no- or low-cost items that would have the greatest impact. Long-term goals that may have a larger budget impact could be added to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Commissioner Perry reiterated that the GRC2 Framework is setup in a way that would be fairly easy for the EEC to work on, with the help of volunteers. Commissioner Boyd agreed that involving volunteers would get the community more invested. Options for dividing up the workload of the GRC2 Framework were discussed, but it was decided that specifics would be determined at a later date.

Commissioner Ault mentioned a 2017 meeting with CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning) and suggested that some of the goals identified during that process should be revisited, and might make the goals in the GRC2 more robust.

Chairman Dunn called for a motion to recommend that the Village Manager join Climate Mayors. Commissioner Ault moved to approve the motion and Commissioner Boyd seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Dunn called for a motion to recommend that the Village Board pass a resolution endorsing the Greenest Region Compact and ask the Environmental and Energy Commission oversee the pursuit of the Consensus Goals contained in the Compact. Commissioner Boyd moved to approve the motion and Commissioner Kebede seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

It was decided that the Chicago Climate Charter will be revisited in future meetings.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Perry reported that the Village has been awarded a Bronze-Level Bicycle-Friendly Community status by the League of American Cyclists. The Village has approved \$80,000 for the preparation of a Bike Plan which is now underway. There will be public meetings to help shape the plan in the future. Additionally, the Rotary Club has donated \$7,500 for new bike racks throughout the Village.

A grant application has also been submitted for the development of a plan for a bike path through Canal Shores Golf Course, which would effectively connect the Wilmette bike path through Gillson Park and the McCormick Statue bike path.

Visitor Jeff Axelrod noted that another grant through the National Park Service was applied for, which would provide technical assistance and consulting for fundraising and community feedback.

Commissioner Boyd asked what the Commission's involvement has been in regards to the Stormwater Improvement Project west of Ridge Road. Chairman Dunn explained that the Village Board has not asked the EEC to provide input. Chairman Dunn also reiterated that the Commission is largely an advisory commission, and while the Village Board could ask the Commission to approach the issue, the EEC has endeavored to remain neutral on the stormwater issue to preserve our status as non-partisan experts.

Commissioner Boyd asked to what extent green infrastructure has been considered in relation to the Stormwater Improvement Project and what the Commission could recommend to the Village on how to improve it. Chairman Dunn reminded the Commissioners that, as Wilmette residents, they may approach Village Board members about such issues.

VI. Public Comment

Mr. Jeff Axelrod mentioned Star Communities, which is a rating system for sustainable cities. Qualified communities are then eligible for additional grants.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Dunn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Perry moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Boyd seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Amoruso
Assistant to the Director of Engineering & Public Works