Chairman Reynolds called the EQC meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Development and Planning Services Department Conference at the Northbrook Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane.

The following Members were in attendance: Jeremy Reynolds, Dale Duda, Mike Beeftink, Brian Bruce, and Scott Robson. A full quorum was met.

Also Present: Assistant Public Works Director Matt Morrison

Members absent: Kent Figge, and Becky Lee

Minutes

Minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting were approved as amended on a voice vote.

Hear from the Audience

There was none.

Old Business

Continued Discussion of Plastic Bag Ban

Village staff provided a recap of the Village of Oak Park’s single-use bag fee. The single-use bag fee is applied to all single-use bags regardless of the materials that they are made up of. The fee, which is $0.10 per bag, is not a tax and therefore paid for by everyone and all organizations, including not-for-profit organizations. The fee is collected by businesses and remitted with other local taxes and fees that businesses already were remitting to the Village of Oak Park. Staff pointed out that the Village of Northbrook does not currently have any local fees or taxes that businesses must remit directly to the Village. When speaking with the Village of Oak Park they spent 6 months of time meeting with all individual businesses that were going to be impacted by the single-use bag fee.

With that staff provided an overview of incremental steps the Village could take. These included providing plastic bag recycling at Village facilities, purchasing and distributing reusable shopping bags, and instituting a leave one/take one reusable shopping bag program. It was noted that the reusable shopping bags that the Village purchased could include the Village’s logo/seal as well as the “Live, Shop, Dine Northbrook” to encourage patronizing of Village buildings. Staff also noted that these programs are modeled after the City of Evanston’s programs. In their experience the cost for plastic bag recycling is approximately $5,000 per year while the cost for the purchase of the bags could be $5.00 per bag and the order of 400 bags would be approximately $2,000. These bags could be distributed at Village events such as Welcome to Northbrook, the 4th of July, and Earth Arbor Day.

Commissioner Robson made a motion that the Environmental Quality Commission recommend to the Village Board that the Village take the incremental steps of providing a plastic bag recycling at Village facilities, purchase and distribute reusable shopping bags, and lastly institute a leave one/take one program for reusable shopping bags. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duda and the motion was unanimously passed.
Discussion of Neonicotinoid Pesticides
Commissioner Duda stated that she was continuing to work on the outline for the educational materials for responsible use of pesticides, in particular neonicotinoid pesticides. The outline will be distributed at an upcoming Environmental Quality Commission for the groups review.

Preparation for Earth and Arbor Day Celebration
Chairman Reynolds stated he was working on the draft materials for the Earth/Arbor Day celebration and they would be ready for review by the Commission at the March meeting.

New Business

There was no new business.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Bruce stated that the Community Garden is entering their 11th year and they have over 70 resident plots committed.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the EQC is scheduled for March 21, 2019.

Adjourn

Commissioner Bruce made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and was seconded by Commissioner Robson. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Matt Morrison
Liaison