

**CITY OF OAK PARK
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2026**

Meeting held at the Community Center at 7:00 pm in Room Two

1. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:06 PM

2. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Chairperson Natalie Sturm, Vice Chairperson Jonathan Nachman,
Commission members: Ken Sherman, Steven Gold, Leslie Ellis, Al Lewis, Edna
Rubin and Erik Nock.

ABSENT: Stephanie Crawford, Clarissa Clemons, Richard Readus

OTHERS PRESENT:

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Jonathan Nachman, seconded by Steven Gold to approve the agenda as amended.

Vote: Yes: All

No: None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2025. by Leslie Ellis, seconded by Ken Sherman.

Vote: Yes: All

No: None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Moved by Leslie Ellis, seconded by Edna Rubin to nominate Natalie Sturm as Chairperson of RECC.

Vote: Yes: All

No: None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Moved by Leslie Ellis, seconded by Natalie Sturm to nominate Jonathan Nachman for Vice Chairperson of RECC.

Vote: Yes: All

CITY OF OAK PARK
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2026

No: None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Moved by Leslie Ellis, seconded by Edna Rubin to nominate Natalie Strum for Secretary of the RECC.

Vote: Yes: All

No: None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

6. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

- a. Staff Liaison Nock provided a SOCRRA update.
- b. Commission member Leslie Ellis raised several inquiries regarding the By-Laws under the “General Duties” section. She noted that a similar provision appears in the City’s Code of Ordinances on the municipal website and sought clarification on whether the two sections are intended to function together or if they operate independently. The idea was brought up to investigate creating a “Mission Statement” for the commission. Further discussion to be held at the next meeting.
- c. Possibilities for changing the name of the commission were tabled until the next meeting as members would like more time to investigate different options.
- d. Natalie introduced several ideas for the upcoming collaboration with the library and asked members whether they were still interested in pursuing the loofah sponge project. Commission Member Sherman requested sample materials before making a final decision and asked that the item be brought back for review at next month’s meeting. An additional idea—creating cards from old or discarded books—was also discussed. Natalie will include this suggestion in her outreach to the library and will obtain an updated deadline for the collaboration.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. City Council Report
 - No report
- b. Communications Report

CITY OF OAK PARK
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2026

- Natalie provided an update on ideas presented to her by Brittany, Director of Communications, on a few options for videos that the commission could do to help promote and inform the public about recycling.
- c. Report on past events
- No Report
- d. The Staff Liaison provided several administrative updates for the Commission, including verification of members' contact information, a review of 2025 attendance records, and a final update regarding the mandatory commission and board training requirements.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. No public comments

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS.

- a. Natalie asked the commission who will be able to attend the upcoming Winterfest event on January 25, 2026, from 1pm to 4pm. Ken, Steven, Al, and Natalie replied that they would be able to attend.
- b. Ken Sherman spoke on a post from the City of Oak Park website about the cardboard recycling dumpster that the city provided for its residents to utilize during the recent holidays and asked if it would be possible to have this event sponsored by the RECC.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ken Sherman, seconded by Alvin Lewis, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Vote: Yes: All

No: None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Minutes prepared by Erik Nock