

CITY OF OAK PARK RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES February 19, 2026

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

1. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:11 PM

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Chairperson and Secretary Natalie Sturm, Vice Chairperson Jonathan Nachman

Commission members Kenneth Sherman, Steven Gold, Leslie Ellis, Clarissa Clemons, Kyle Soule

City Councilmember Stephanie Crawford, Staff Liaison Erik Nock

Absent: Al Lewis, Edna Rubin

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Call for amendments:

Kenneth Sherman requested that an introduction of new commissioners and update on membership be added under New Business.

Natalie Sturm requested that a discussion of dates for a native plant sale be added under New Business.

Motion to approve agenda as amended:

Moved by Kenneth Sherman, seconded by Steven Gold

Vote: Yes: All

No: None

Motion declared adopted

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Call for corrections: None proposed

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Motion to approve:

Moved by Steven Gold, seconded by Leslie Ellis

Vote: Yes: All

No: None

Motion declared adopted

5, CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

- a. Staff Liaison Erik Nock provided a SOCCRA update with discussion of reasons for discrepancies in recycling volumes and a clarification of the utilization of data.
- b. Chairperson Natalie Sturm called for discussion of bylaws/policies; it was determined by the commission that no further discussion is needed.
- c. Possibilities for changing the name of the commission were discussed; it was requested that Leslie Ellis continue to audit analogous commission names and present the results in next month's meeting. Leslie summarized her previous findings including a general move towards "sustainability language" and proposed the name "Environmental and Sustainability Commission" along with an updated purpose statement. Further discussion to be held at next meeting.
- d. Chairperson Natalie Sturm provided an update on the status of the proposed collaboration with the city library; librarian Melissa has confirmed availability of discontinued books for craft projects and will continue to communicate about dates for potential events. Leslie Ellis proposed cardmaking craft with senior outreach component, and Kenneth Sherman proposed partnering with the library's program for book delivery to homebound individuals or Meals on Wheels. Kyle Soule proposed incorporating wisdom/life advice into card messages, and Jonathon Nachman suggested utilizing old magazines as well as book pages.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. City Councilmember Stephanie Crawford reported on the results of interviews for commissioners; she introduced the zoom link that will be available for boards and commissions training, and clarified that the date of the Independence Day parade will be

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July 3rd this year. She shared that she will present a feature on Alvin Lewis at the Event Hub ribbon cutting ceremony on June 30 to coincide with the State of the City address.

b. Chairperson Natalie Sturm provided a communications report: the SOCCRA infographic that the commission requested to be shared on the city Facebook page has been posted

c. Chairperson Natalie Sturm provided a report on past events: Winterfest was successful with about 75% of purchased pinecones utilized. All receipts for supplies have been submitted to Erik Nock for reimbursement.

d. Chairperson Natalie Sturm provided an update on commission membership with a clarification of the circumstances of Richard Readus's resignation; the commission proposed addressing cards to him and Alvin Lewis, and Jonathon Nachman volunteered to obtain and deliver the cards.

e. New member Kyle Soule introduced himself to the commission and existing members introduced themselves.

f. Chairperson Natalie Sturm requested the commission consider dates for a 2026 native plant sale to be discussed at the next meeting; Leslie Ellis proposed a collaborative event with Berkely in the Water Tower district, with Natalie to contact the appropriate Berkely commission.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. No public comments

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. Steven Gold proposed that a discussion of programming for the Independence Day event be added to the agenda under New Business.

b. Kenneth Sherman suggested an email to the commission reiterating event dates for the upcoming year, with Natalie Sturm to send the email.

c. Steven Gold remarked on sustainability plans for the city's new proposed car wash.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Kenneth Sherman, seconded by Leslie Ellis

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Vote: Yes: All

No: None

Motion declared adopted; meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM