

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
February 18, 2016**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Deerfield Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Road, at 7:00 PM in the Community Conference Room 206. Chairman Don Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

In attendance were:

Present:

Don Anderson, Chairman
Richard Heller
Laurie Leibowitz
Michael Shalen
Gloria Threats
Jerry Witkovsky
Brian Wolkenberg

Absent was:

Daniel Dorfman
Andrew Lichterman

Also present:

Lisa Johnson, Earth Works
Jeri Cotton, Secretary

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Witkovsky moved to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2016 Sustainability Commission meeting. Commissioner Shalen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Comment

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

Energy Assessment Program

Commissioner Wolkenberg spoke with Principal O'Connell regarding getting together with faculty at Kipling and leading green programming at Kipling School. The next step would be for the group to meet and discuss content and program ideas. Commissioner Wolkenberg will schedule the meeting. He hopes to have both take-home and in-school components along with a friendly competition between classrooms.

Commissioner Threats spoke with her manager at Walgreens and they would be interested in participating, but want to know what would be involved. Commissioner Wolkenberg described what they did last year and indicated they want to expand the program through additional schools/families as well as commercial involvement. The Commission can define what they believe makes sense. Commissioner Threats explained Walgreens hosts group tours at their Net Zero store in Evanston. Their Nottingham location has a green initiative with the schools as well. Commissioner Wolkenberg noted the program

can be implemented for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. He would like to implement the program the week of Earth Day.

Commissioner Threats indicated Walgreens has already targeted April 20 – 22 for corporate programming. Commissioner Leibowitz noted the Village was also looking at activities on Earth Day. Commissioner Threats explained they have several locations that want to participate in a shredding event, but was unsure if it would be open to the public. Previously, Walgreens worked with SWALCO. They are also looking at working with E-Waste. Commissioner Leibowitz noted the Commission was looking at having a shredding day on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

Action – Commissioner Wolkenberg and Commissioner Dorfman will meet with Principal O’Connell and faculty. They will also have conversations about possible support from Walgreens.

Water Assessment Program

Ch. Anderson explained Assistant Village Manager Lichterman sent some information about the five refilling stations at Deerfield High School. Four of the refilling stations electronically count the number of refills. The number of water bottles saved from landfills in a month was 7,286. Commissioner Leibowitz spoke with Mr. Lichterman about options for an Earth Day celebration. They spoke about an event in the downtown that would include shredding on Saturday, April 23, 2016. They also spoke about a blind taste-test comparing various types of bottled water to tap water and having people rate their experience. The questionnaire would include questions regarding whether they would use tap water and that they would sign a pledge. They would also have a fact sheet that would compare costs, talk about the ratings for Deerfield water and the environmental impacts of using bottled water. Deerfield’s water is strictly regulated by the EPA whereas bottled water is regulated loosely by the FDA. The program would educate consumers, give people the opportunity to taste test water and sign a pledge. Commissioner Leibowitz is looking for someone to donate reusable water bottles. Commissioner Heller suggested asking people to taste three types of water, with two of them being the same. By providing three samples, you would be able to determine whether people could tell the difference between tap water and bottled water.

Commissioner Leibowitz discussed complimentary ideas for Earth Day, including distributing a sheet from SWALCO stating what items can be recycled and having a composter on display along with a fact sheet on composting. Commissioner Leibowitz believes this would start the education process on composting.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the Commissioner would be in favor of the “water challenge” if they did not have water bottles. Commissioner Leibowitz believes handing out water bottles would be better, but she would not want to pass on the opportunity to educate consumers about the benefits. She believes they would need a few hundred water bottles. Ms. Threats will see what Walgreens may be able to do. Commissioner Wolkenberg believes capturing the names from people that sign the pledge will help build sustainability ambassadors in the Village.

Ch. Anderson suggested focusing on just two things, rather than overloading residents. He was uncomfortable with the pledge, even though he wants to measure response. Ch. Anderson believes requiring the pledge to be signed may be a deterrent as people may perceive the Village as “big brother-ish.” He thinks both the water and paper shredding are good initiatives for Earth Day. The commissioners believe the paper shredding event will be a draw. Commissioner Wolkenberg noted some residents would not want to sign the pledge, but may be interested in being informed. Commissioner

Heller would be in favor of distributing water bottles to participants. He believes it would be positive reinforcement. Commissioner Threats added it would be an extension of the event.

The commissioners discussed replacing the pledge with a voluntary list for residents interested in receiving information about sustainability in Deerfield. Commissioner Leibowitz and Commissioner Witkovsky will work with Mr. Lichterman to pursue a booth, signage, literature and water bottles. Commissioner Leibowitz asked for volunteers to sit at the table. She explained the location and timing would be determined, based on the size and availability of the shredding truck. Ch. Anderson believes it is important that the Commission have a strong presence at the event.

Commissioner Heller moved to hold the water challenge, a shredding event and have a flyer available with what can be recycled. The water bottles, booth, location, timing, promotion and volunteer sign up will be finalized at a later date. Commissioner Shalen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Other Items for Discussion

Prescription Drug Disposal Program

Ch. Anderson explained the Village regularly highlights the prescription drug disposal program. He shared the numbers from 2014 and 2015 and believes the program has been a success.

Commissioner Threats explained Walgreens will have their own drug disposal initiative and distributed a press release. She explained 500 stores will install a safe medication disposal kiosk. They will also make naloxone available to reverse the effects of overdose. Commissioner Threats noted Walgreens will hold a drug disposal event at the Walgreens corporate campus on Earth Day.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, Commission Witkovsky moved to adjourn the meeting. Commission Heller seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

The next Sustainability Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Cotton
Secretary