

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
June 28, 2018**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Deerfield Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Road, in the Community Conference Room 206. Chairman Don Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Present:

Don Anderson, Chairman
Maria Albulesco (Walgreens Representative)
Daniel Dorfman
Dick Heller
Michael Shalen
Bill Mertes
Brian Wolkenberg

Absent was:

Chenlin Zhao
Laurie Leibowitz

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Heller made a motion seconded by Commissioner Shalen to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Melissa Harp is a resident and expressed her desire to help the Commission in any way she can and she would like to understand the Commission's initiatives and how the group defines success. Ms. Nancy Funk is a Highland Park resident interested in learning more about the Commission's work. Mr. Art Wilde is a Deerfield resident that recently formed a resident group that he hopes could be a catalyst for environmental change and serve as a central source of environmental resources. The main purpose of the group is to educate, motivate and inspire the community to take action with an environmental focus. He would like to collaborate and complement the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner Heller inquired as to what motivated Mr. Wilde to get involved. Mr. Wilde noted that he attended a lecture at Deerfield Public Library that helped educate him about the dangers of climate change but he left with a lot of hope and a feeling that he could make a difference.

Chairman Anderson thanked Ms. Harp, Ms. Funk and Mr. Wilde for attending the meeting and invited them to visit the website to see some of our past initiatives. He noted that the Commission tends to set goals that lead to concrete actions, which can make a difference and have a real impact in our community.

Energy

Commissioner Wolkenberg summarized the Earth Day activities at District 109 grade schools and middle schools noting the goal is to drive awareness and action around energy conservation. He noted that over the years the partnership has grown to include all of the District 109 schools except for Caruso. The

program also includes two classroom demonstrations by Walgreens including a presentation on their net zero store at Shepard and a hands-on lighting activity at Kipling. Since we have created lots of educational content we are now able to cross-pollinate the materials and use them in different schools and classrooms each year. A study of migratory birds was a new program completed at Walden this year.

The Village presented certificates to the winners of the Art and Essay contest at Shepard. Mr. Wolkenberg noted this year was a great success particularly given the number of schools and grade levels that participated in the program.

Mr. Wolkenberg noted that the program also includes activities that need to be completed at home. A total of 110 students completed that take-home activities (60 students at Kipling and 50 students at Wilmot). These students had conversations about energy conservation with their families. Partnering with the schools is proving to be a very effective way to get into the homes.

Mr. Dorfman requested that year-over-year data be shared at an upcoming meeting to provide more context.

Chairman Anderson inquired as to the vision for next year. Mr. Wolkenberg noted the goal is to continue the growth of the program and to continue to share activities across schools and classrooms. He noted that Dr. McConnell is the new superintendent and he was been a huge supporter of the program.

Ms. Harp suggested that activities also be completed at summer camps to continue momentum over the summer months.

Chairman Anderson requested Mr. Lichterman to summarize other Earth day activities. Mr. Lichterman noted that an e-waste collection was hosted in conjunction with Walgreens and a tree planting was completed with the Earth Works Club at Deerfield High School on Arbor Day.

Community Outreach Initiatives

Chairman Anderson asked each member to take a few minutes to summarize the initiatives they researched over that last few months.

- Recycling – Commissioner Heller
 - Commissioner Heller distributed a recycling hand-out that illustrates what materials can be recycled and what goes to the landfill. He noted that residents struggle to determine what exactly to recycle in their daily routine. He suggested that perhaps the Commission could create reusable bags that show what materials to recycle and noted this could also be shared with the schools. We suggested that Waste Management could also be a good resource and partner. Mr. Lichterman noted that he would contact SWALCO to get an updated recycling report.

- LED Lighting – Commissioner Shalen
 - Commissioner Shalen noted that he utilized the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program to convert 65 incandescent light bulbs to LED lights. He discussed the program favorably and noted that ComEd generates a report for the customer indicating the energy savings each month. He noted it was a 3-4 month lead time to have the replacement completed. He noted the work was completed in about an hour and ComEd even disposed of the old light bulbs. He noted this is a great program for residents, particularly senior citizens that would have a harder time replacing their own light bulbs. Commissioner Wolkenberg

reported that he converted the lights in his home to LED and experienced a significant energy reduction. Chairman Anderson noted that the Commission could perhaps help ComEd to promote the program to our community.

- Trees – Commissioner Leibowitz
 - Mr. Lichterman summarized the hand out that Commissioner Leibowitz provided to the Commission in advance of tonight’s meeting, due to her absence. Mr. Lichterman also noted that the Village is pursuing additional tree regulations regarding when Oak and Elm trees can be trimmed. Ms. Harp suggested that the community should be encouraged to use native plants as this also complements water conservation efforts. She suggested that the Commission utilize resources at the Botanic Garden.

- Composting – Commissioner Zhao
 - Mr. Lichterman noted that Commissioner Zhao was researching this topic but that he is absent tonight. Mr. Lichterman noted that the Village continues to have conversations with the waste hauling companies about composting and a natural time to consider adding this as a curbside service would be at the expiration of the current contract with Waste Management.

- Walkability/Bikes – Commissioner Anderson
 - Chairman Anderson summarized the history and past initiatives of the Village’s former walkability and streetscape task forces. He also researched literature on walkability initiatives from the National League of Cities, Chicago Community Trust and *Walkable City* by Jeff Spech, among others. He noted that most of the initiatives are for large city downtowns and are less applicable to neighborhoods or suburbs. He noted that do to the good work and improvements already completed by past Village task forces there was less need to focus on this area compared to some of the other initiatives.

Chairman Anderson suggested that the Commission postpone voting on the initiatives until next time when Commissioner Zhao and Leibowitz can also be present.

Mr. Wilde noted that at the last meeting the Commission was reviewing and discussing research from the book *Drawndown*. Mr. Wilde asked if he could share the information with Mr. Lichterman so it could be distributed to the Commission. Ms. Harp suggested that the Commission consider also focusing on reducing waste in addition to recycling.

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Chairman Anderson requested that this matter be tabled since Commissioner Dorfman had to leave the meeting. Commissioner Heller made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shalen. The motion was approved unanimously and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Farmers Market

Chairman Anderson suggested that the Commission identify possible dates to host a table at the Farmers Market. He suggested that the details of the Commission’s demonstration could be determined at a later date but that we should at least secure a date. The Commissioners agreed August 4, 11 or 18 as possible dates. Chairman Anderson will check on space availability and report back at the next meeting.

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Adjournment

Commissioner Shalen made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heller.,

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lichterman

Assistant Village Manager