

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
August 30, 2018**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, August 30, 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
Daniel Dorfman
Bill Mertes
Laurie Leibowitz
Dick Heller

Absent was:

Michael Shalen
Brian Wolkenberg

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager

Announcements

Chairman Anderson circulated a copy of the recent article about the Sustainability Commission that was published in the Deerfield Review.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Leibowitz made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dorfman to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2018 meeting with amendments noting that Commissioner Mertes was absent and Commissioner Shalen was present. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Amy Call noted that she was interested in the status of the “Giving to the Trees” topic. She also noted that next year she would like the Green Team at Walden School to pursue a “War on Plastic.” She noted the strategy should be to reduce consumption of plastic in addition to recycling. She requested that a booth be hosted at the Farmers Market next year around this topic. Commissioner Dorfman reported on the Commission’s past positive experiences working with District 109 and noted they could use Ms. Call’s help.

Mr. Art Wilde reported on updates from the Go Green Deerfield group and noted they continue to meet regularly. 13 people attended their last meeting and 20 people are included on their email distribution list. The group has selected three focus areas: (1) climate/energy/transportation, (2) land use; and, (3) waste/recycling. Mr. Wilde distributed a summary of the most significant areas of impact as noted in the book *Drawdown*. He pointed out that food is a high impact sector with regards to fossil fuels and is related to the focus area of waste. Mr. Wilde extended an invitation to the Commission to attend meetings and help the group formulate action plans. He noted Go Green Deerfield typically meets the fourth Thursday of the month at the Deerfield Public Library.

Chairman Anderson thanked Ms. Call and Mr. Wilde for their input and continued interest.

Prioritized Community Outreach Initiatives

Commissioner Anderson stated that he would recommend the Commission discuss and finalize the areas of focus using the five key initiatives that were reviewed at the last meeting. Chairman Anderson noted that his sense was that LED Lighting, Trees and Recycling had the most interest and significance at this time. He suggested that the community is in fairly good shape when it comes to Walkability and that Composting would be best discussed in conjunction with the waste hauling contract renewal which will occur in 2020. Chairman Anderson suggested picking two out of the remaining three areas to focus on and noted that the initiatives should support the sustainability programs that have been started at District 109.

Residential LED Lighting Education - Chairman Anderson noted that this topic dovetails nicely with the energy conservation programs at District 109 and that Commissioner Wolkenberg sent an email noting his support for this topic in advance of the meeting. Commissioner Dorfman noted there is natural overlap with the school programs since they already discuss lighting as part of the program. He expressed his support for pursuing this topic and also noted his support for pursuing Giving to the Trees.

Giving to the Trees – Commissioner Leibowitz reviewed her written proposal for this topic. The proposal includes two community activities. First, a tree walk activity in partnership with the Park District, whereby an arborist would lead an educational tree walk identifying trees and various benefits and threats. The second activity would be a more hands-on program whereby participants could plant tree saplings, pull weeds, prepare mulch and remove invasive plants such as buckthorn. The hope would be to include various community groups such as the scouts and houses of worship. Chairman Anderson thanked Commissioner Leibowitz for her thoughtful proposal and particularly likes the hands-on elements of the program.

Mr. Wilde inquired about the Village's tree ordinance. Mr. Lichterman noted how the tree ordinance is used to protect and dissuade residents from removing trees. Chairman Anderson noted the Village is doubling efforts around the 50/50 parkway tree program and the impact the disease to the Ash trees had on the Village's canopy. Chairman Anderson requested data with the number of 50/50 parkway tree participants.

Residential Recycling Education – Commissioner Heller suggested that with the dramatic shift and changing market for recyclables in China that we postpone this focus area.

Commissioner Heller made a motion to pursue two focus areas: (1) Residential LED Lighting Education; and, (2) Giving to the Trees. Commissioner Leibowitz seconded the motion. Chairman Anderson asked for any discussion. Commissioner Leibowitz noted she will be moving to Wilmette in the next 6-8 months and would need someone else to spearhead the tree initiative if it is selected this evening. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Anderson requested Commissioners to form subcommittees around the focus area. The Tree subcommittee will be Commissioner Leibowitz and Commissioner Mertes. The LED Lighting subcommittee will be Commissioner Shalen and he will work with Commissioners Dorfman and Wolkenberg to ensure the group is connected to the District 109 energy conservation activities.

Chairman Anderson thanked everyone for the thoughtful deliberation. He encouraged members to think about measurable outcomes and noted that he is happy to help.

Farmers Market Event

Commissioner Heller recapped the Farmers Market event noting that the Commission hosted a booth with a hands-on recycling quiz. He noted that it was a great event and lots of kids participated. Milkweed seeds and monarch butterfly habitat information was also distributed at the event. Chairman Anderson noted that it is great to have activities that are visible to the community.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Commissioner Dorfman noted that the Commission had reviewed the ICLEI information several months ago and recalls that they are an organization that has a paid membership subscription that helps provide data and benchmarking resources to local governments. Commissioner Dorfman suggested reviewing the website materials at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Heller made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leibowitz. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Lichterman
Assistant Village Manager