

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Ad Hoc Working Group
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2022

A meeting of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Ad Hoc Working Group was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 3:00 pm at Village Hall. Chairperson Mary Oppenheim called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Present:

Trustee Mary Oppenheim, Chairperson
Elaine Jacoby, Village Trustee (arrived 3:08 pm)
Victoria Street, Executive Director, DBR Chamber of Commerce
Art Wilde, Go Green Deerfield

Absent:

Don Anderson, Sustainability Commission Chairperson
Camilla Dadey, Go Green Deerfield
Bill Mertes, Sustainability Commission

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager/Director of Community Development
Bob Phillips, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Clint Case, Building and Code Enforcement Supervisor
Dan Nakahara, Planner

Document Approval

Commissioner Wilde moved to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Street seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Business

1. Discussion of Possible Policies, Programs and Resources

Focus Area:

i. Food

Chairperson Oppenheim noted that as the group has previously discussed, food is a long term 2050 goal. The group discussed some ways to: (i) increase access to healthy, local food; (ii) increase the area of good gardens in the community; and, (iii) support plant-based diets.

In an effort to increase access to healthy food the group discussed opportunity for a year-round farmers market. It was noted that this requires a lot of resources and only certain seasonal vendors would be able to participate. It was noted that St. Gregory's Church already has a winter market at the consensus of the group was to find ways to partner with their market rather than the Village creating a competing event, at least in the short term.

Ch. Oppenheim reported that the questions of community gardens has come up many times over the years. She noted that the Village does not have the open space to support this initiative and staff typically refers these suggestions to the Park District, as they are better suited to offer publicly available open space. Additionally, it was suggested that the houses of worship could offer community garden. It was noted that for many years, Zion Luther Church had a community garden but that is no longer the case due to their recent redevelopment. Mr. Lichterman concurred with the suggestion and noted that we should leverage partnerships with the Park District and houses of worship if we think there is value in a community garden. He also pointed out that the community is mostly single-family homes with backyards and space for a person garden. This type of land use makes typically more sense in high density communities where people do not have their own green space on their property.

The group discussed ways to support plant-based diets. The group was in favor of promoting education around the benefits of eating plant-based meals. This could include campaigns such as Meatless Mondays. The group also discussed ways to possibly incentive and attract plant-based restaurants to open in the Village. This could include waiver or reduction of business licenses for plant-based restaurants. Ch. Oppenheim noted this is a low-cost incentive that may help the Village stand out when attracting a plant-based restaurant. Commissioner Street noted that there are some concerns with offering this type of incentive to only plant-based restaurants, as it creates inequities and could result in a negative reaction from other restaurants in the Village.

The group acknowledged the Village has little influence over which farmers large institutional buyers make their purchases from. Ideally, purchase would be made locally from farmers in the state of Illinois. The group will continue to advocate for this position but again did not identify specific ways to influence this behavior at this time.

Ch. Oppenheim noted that the strategies and tactics that have been identified will be captured in the final report. Food is a 2050 objective but that does not mean that certain actions cannot start now.

2. Other Items for Discussion

Mr. Lichterman noted that staff will begin drafting the report and the group will have time to review and comment on the draft at the next two meetings. The final report will be presented to the Village Board on June 6. The report will identify key objectives for the Village Board to endorse but the specific strategies and tactics will come back to the Village Board for further consideration.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Working Group

April 13, 2022

Page 3 of 3

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, Commissioner Jacoby moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wilde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lichterman

Assistant Village Manager / Dir. of Community Development