

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
April 15, 2021**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, April 15, 2021 via Zoom.
In attendance were:

Present:

Don Anderson, Chairman
Amy Call
Dick Heller
Karrah Krakovyak
Bill Mertes
Brian Wolkenberg

Absent:

Maria Albulesco
Michael Shalen
Deborah Tomez

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and a virtual quorum was present.

Public Comment

Mr. Art Wilde asked Chairman Anderson to share the goals and focus areas of the Commission. Chairman Anderson noted there are three main focus areas currently: (1) energy conservation, (2) care of trees; and (3) recycling and landfill diversion programs such as composting. COVID-19 has affected some of the program initiatives given the limited face-to-face interaction during the pandemic. In the coming months we should be able to resume more programming. Mr. Wilde thanked Mr. Anderson for the information and understands the Commission's role to be one of advocacy and education.

Residential Solid Waste Contract

Mr. Lichterman noted the new service contract is operational as of April 1. The Village held a compost toolkit give-away event on April 3. Over 800 residents came to the event to pick up their toolkits and the Village is considering order more toolkits since there is still a lot of demand. The Village has received a lot of positive feedback. Commissioner Wolkenberg noted that approximately 1 in 6 homes have received a toolkit. Commissioner Heller inquired if we will receive a report on what percentage of households are utilizing the compost container. Mr. Lichterman noted that we will receive quarterly tonnage reports from the hauler but we may or may not be able to get it by household count. The Commission agreed that anecdotally it appears that 1 in 5 households have the compost cart at the curb on collection day.

The Commission broadly reviewed the monthly composting campaign materials and received the plan favorably. Mr. Lichterman noted that Commissioner Heller and Commissioner Krakovyak are meeting later in the week to further refine the plan and they can bring their recommendations back to the Commission at the next meeting. Mr. Lichterman confirmed there was an error in the SWALCO report related to the City of Highwood's disposal rate, as the Commission suspected at the last meeting. Chairman Anderson asked if the revised data could be shared with the Commission when available. Chairman asked when we would receive Deerfield's data. Mr. Lichterman noted the hauler reports will be

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provided to the Village quarterly. Commissioner Mertes inquired about how the data is measured. Mr. Lichterman noted that the disposal rate is based on weight. Mr. Lichterman suggested bring SWALCO to a future meeting to discuss their data. Chairman Anderson concurred with the suggested and asked that SWALCO be scheduled to attend a future meeting.

Chairman Anderson reported that he understands Shepard Middle School has interest in participating in the compost program. Mr. Lichterman noted that he will be meeting with Lakeshore Recycling Systems and the Assistant Principal at Shepard later this month so that hauler can provide them with a price proposal.

Commissioner Mertes recommended working with the restaurants on food scrap programs as well. Chairman Anderson concurred and noted that should be part of our program initiative following the residential roll-out.

Care of Trees

River Day

Commissioner Call noted that Chicago River Day is scheduled for May 8. It's a very exciting event and there is a lot of interest. She noted that there are three locations in the Village: (1) Trail Tree Park, (2) Trinity Church; and, (3) Deerfield High School. Each site about 30 volunteers. Partners also include Walgreens Corporation and the Lake County Storm Water Management Agency.

Tree Walk

Following the River Day event, she suggested that the tree subcommittee meet with the Park District and the Village Arborist to identify a park to host a fall tree walk.

50/50 Parkway Tree Program

Mr. Lichterman noted a report from the Arborist regarding the pear tree was included in the agenda packet. Commissioner Call was going to inquiry further with the Morton Arboretum and see if there was a salt tolerant species that could replace this tree on the species list.

100% Green Residential Aggregation Program

Mr. Lichterman reported that the NSEAC members received one responsive bid to the Request for Proposals. The bid is under review and will be presented to the Village Board shortly.

Arbor Day

Mr. Lichterman noted that the Village will plant trees at Deerfield High School and Kipling Elementary School in honor of Arbor Day.

Other Items for Discussion

Commissioner Wolkenberg noted that the Village Board passed a proclamation last year setting goals related to reducing the Village's greenhouse gas emissions. He wanted to encourage a discussion about what our role is related to the proclamation and how we can tie our goals to that broader initiative. He suggested adding that to a future agenda as a discussion topic. Chairman Anderson noted we can add that to the next agenda.

Public Comment

Mr. Moe Ban noted that he sent some materials related to compost education to staff to share. He also noted that Go Green Deerfield is hosting a webinar next week to help educate residents about composting.

Next meeting Date

The next meeting date will be May 20 at 7 p.m.

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Adjournment

Commissioner Heller made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mertes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. The meeting was adjourned via a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Lichterman
Assistant Village Manager