

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
May 20, 2021**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 via Zoom.
In attendance were:

Present:

Don Anderson, Chairman
Maria Albulesco
Amy Call
Dick Heller (7:24 p.m. arrival)
Karrah Krakovyak
Bill Mertes
Michael Shalen
Deborah Tomez
Brian Wolkenberg

Absent:

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and a virtual quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes

Chairman Anderson noted there are two sets of meeting minutes for consideration tonight. Those are the meeting minutes from March 4, 2021, and April 15, 2021.

Commissioner Tomez noted the word “on” should be “in” in the April 15, 2021 meeting minutes when referencing Arbor Day.

Commissioner Mertes made a motion to approve the March 4, 2021 meeting minutes and the April 15, 2021 meeting minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tomez. The minutes were approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

Public Comment

There was no one present for Public Comment.

Care of Trees

River Day

Commissioner Call noted Chicago River Day was held May 8. There was a great turnout at both locations and there were approximately 70 volunteers. Mayor Shapiro, Congressman Schneider, the Park District, the Walgreens Corporation and the Lake County Storm Water Management Agency were all in attendance. The volunteers planted new vegetation and removed invasive buckthorn. It was a very successful event and it is anticipated that we would host both sites again next year.

Sustainability Commission
May 20, 2021

Tree Walk

Commissioner Call reported that she has begun to explore park options with the Park District and will meet staff on-site to identify an appropriate location. Commissioner Mertes noted that he would be happy to participate with Commissioner Call.

50/50 Parkway Tree Program

Commissioner Call asked her contact at the Morton Arboretum for input on the chanticleer pear and to identify a possible alternative but is still waiting for a response.

Sustainability Commission Role re: GHG Proclamation

Chairman Anderson noted the Village Board passed a Greenhouse Gas Proclamation last year. He asked Commissioner Wolkenberg to share his thoughts regarding the Commission's role and next steps. Commissioner Wolkenberg noted that figuring out how we actually reduce the GHG emissions is up to various entities in and around the Village. From a vision and goal perspective, he suggested that this Commission is in a leadership role to work with other entities and the Village in coordinating a set of initiatives and activities that ladder up to helping the Village collectively achieve its goal. It would be up to each of the participating entities and groups to figure out how they, in particular, want to contribute to the initiatives that align with their priorities and resources. The primary idea is that the Commission should have a seat at the table and help to lead that discussion. He wants feedback from the group to see if there is alignment with that vision.

Commissioner Tomez inquired how the GHG reduction goals were established. Commissioner Wolkenberg noted they were adopted to be consistent with the Paris Agreement. Commissioner Tomez sees our role as being a sounding board and forum for people to share their thoughts and ideas with the Village before they go to the Village Board.

Commission Mertes inquired who some of the stakeholders might be. Commissioner Wolkenberg noted stakeholders include Go Green Deerfield, School District 109 and 113, Park District and others.

Commissioner Call expressed a sense of urgency and noted that the benchmarks from the Paris Agreement may have already been updated.

Commissioner Heller noted that industry, transportation and electricity production are major contributors to GHG emissions and there is only so much of that located in Deerfield that we will be able to influence. He encouraged a practical view on this matter to determine what is reasonable to achieve. The first step we should pursue is to determine what is doable.

Commissioner Wolkenberg noted there is value in collective ingenuity, energy and creativity to determine what a practical plan looks like for our Village. Commissioner Heller suggested working with experts in this field to help guide us in the right direction.

Commissioner Shalen noted that before we make decisions about going forward we need to figure out where we are now. We need to learn what the other stakeholders are doing and what plans may already be in place. Commissioner Wolkeberg agreed and noted that an inventory of activity would be a great place to start.

Chairman Anderson reminded the Commission that our three major focus areas are aligned with this goal and help to reduce GHG emissions. He noted that we are engaged in a leadership role already and we need to find the correct balance of resources going forward.

Sustainability Commission
May 20, 2021

Commissioner Wolkenberg summarized that he is hearing there is consensus for us to be in a leadership role and for us to interact with other entities to learn about their interests, activities and initiatives related to GHG reduction.

Curbside Composting Education Campaign and Programs

Commissioner Heller reported that he met with Commission Krakovyak and Mr. Lichterman to brainstorm various ideas and initiatives. We discussed a compost give-away event but decided that would be more appropriate to host in conjunction with the Public Works Open House a year from now. Instead the group recommends hosting an electronic collection event on Saturday, June 26. He noted that the Village is still working with School District 109 around a composting pilot program and if they decide to move forward with that there will be opportunity for greater partnerships around compost education. Lastly, Commissioner Heller noted that the working group recommends having SWALCO host various educational programs either at the Park District or Library about composting. SWALCO has agreed to be a partner and is willing to host events, as needed.

Mr. Lichterman noted that he will work with Commissioners Heller and Krakovyak to draft a compost education flyer that can be handed out to the residents at the electronics collection event.

Mr. Lichterman also noted that SWALCO is willing to attend a future Commission meeting to talk with us about their upcoming programs, diversion action plans, metrics, etc. Chairman Anderson suggested that we invite SWALCO to the June meeting.

100% Green Residential Aggregation Program

Mr. Lichterman reported that the NSEAC members anticipate awarding contracts in June. Also, the Village has 108 residents enrolled in the Community Solar Program. Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Lichterman if ComEd has resumed their home energy assessment program. Mr. Lichterman noted that he would reach out to ComEd to find out.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

Next meeting Date

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

Adjournment

Commissioner Shalen made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heller. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned via a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Lichterman
Assistant Village Manager