

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABLE COMMISSION
AUGUST 19, 2021**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Present:

Don Anderson, Chairman
Amy Call
Dick Heller
Karrah Krakoviak
Bill Mertes
Michael Shalen
Deborah Tometz
Brian Wolkenberg

Absent:

Maria Albulesco

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager

Consideration of Minutes

Commissioner Heller moved, seconded by Commissioner Wolkenberg, to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2021 Sustainability Commission. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Call, Heller, Krakoviak, Mertes, Shalen, Tometz, Wolkenberg, Anderson (8)

NAYS: None (0)

Public Comment

There was no public comment received by email. There was no one present at Village Hall or on Zoom wishing to make a public comment.

Business:

1. Green Region Compact 2

• **Self-Assessment Framework and Topic Areas**

Ch. Anderson has been impressed with how many sustainable actions the Village has already completed. The Commission will use the Green Region Compact 2 framework to assess and benchmark our activities. Mr. Lichterman suggested inviting members of Village staff to attend Commission meetings to share their expertise and answer questions on various topic areas.

Mr. Lichterman noted staff last completed a thorough review of the framework in 2018. The various topic areas, identified by the Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus include climate, economic development, energy, land use, leadership, mobility and municipal operations, sustainable communities, water, waste and recycling. There is also a Resolution that the Village can formally approve to gain access to additional programs and resources from the Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus.

Mr. Lichterman provided a brief overview of the climate framework. He provided an overview of the items that the Village has identified and are in progress as well as opportunities. Mr. Wolkenberg believes this is potentially a great resource for the Village and has a number of examples of things that have already been mapped out. Mr. Heller noted these are very big topics. Mr. Lichterman explained the exercise shows where the Village is today rather than what the Village wants to accomplish. When completing the one-page template, he only looked at the goals set by the Village what the Village has in progress rather than weighing in on what the Village should do. Mr. Wolkenberg noted there are approximately 1,100 individual items in the scope of the assessment framework. He supports Mr. Lichterman's suggestion of having the Village staff complete the framework snapshot for the Commission discuss further at the next meeting. Ch. Anderson noted the commissioners need to have a level of understanding of the items in the assessment. Ms. Tometz suggested discussing a few of the expanded bullet points monthly and acting on items where the Commission could be helpful, such as the educational efforts. Ms. Call suggested the commissioners could try to assist Village staff, but it makes sense for staff to work on this as they are more familiar with what is in progress. She suggested having a couple commissioners work on items of interest to them so they could help speed up the process. Ch. Anderson noted the Commission's charge is education not ordinances or enforcement. Mr. Shalen believes there is so much information and does not want to rush through it. He believes the Commission needs to determine where the Village stands, how did we get here and how to move forward. We are trying to get a picture of everything the Village is doing. Mr. Shalen is concerned about taking on too much. Ms. Call believes if the commissioners looked at the numbers in a category to determine what is paramount, doable and important to the Village. Ch. Anderson expressed concern about asking for too much from Village staff and asked Mr. Lichterman for a timeframe where Village staff could assist, given resource limitations. He would like the commissioners to have a firm understanding of what is being done and why, as well as why something has not been done or why something should be done. Mr. Heller suggested prioritizing the list based on the Commission's charter. Ms. Krakoviak suggested dividing the topics based on commissioner's expertise as well. Mr. Lichterman suggested having staff complete the framework and having it substantially complete for the next meeting.

Mr. Wolkenberg believes the Village should adopt the Green Region Compact 2 Resolution to gain access to the other programs and resources.

2. Curbside Composting Education Campaign and Programs

- **Staff update on compost toolkits and video series**

Mr. Lichterman noted there is a new composting video. It is a very cute, educational piece. He thanked Ms. Call for assisting in the video. Mr. Lichterman noted 80 composting kits were

given out at the electronics event. The Village still has about 50 composting kits to distribute. The Village has distributed about 1500 compost kits, which represents 25 percent of the Village.

- **Recap – June 26, 2021 Electronic Collection Event**

Mr. Lichterman noted the Village filled up 2.5 twenty cubic yard dumpsters of electronics.

- **Future Events and Opportunities – Paper Shredding**

Mr. Lichterman believes the Village could explore hosting a paper shredding event in October. He noted the Village could leverage the Chamber's wellness event at the Patty Turner Center in late September since that includes a paper shredding event as well.

2. Care of Trees Initiatives

- **Tree Walk Program**

Ms. Call noted the tree walk is scheduled for September 25, 2021 at Floral Park. Ms. Call spoke with the Park District horticulturist who selected this park based on a great variety of trees. There is also an area behind the dog park at Jaycee Park that used to have a lot of buckthorn that was cleared and can be used as a restoration educational piece. Ms. Call and Mr. Lichterman will set a time to walk the park in advance of the event. Ch. Anderson suggested starting to promote it quickly.

- **50/50 Parkway Tree Program**

Ms. Call solicited opinions from Lake County Forest Preserve staff, Morton Arboretum staff and Bob Phillips about the Chanticleer Pear on the tree species list. They do not believe it should be a recommended plant moving forward. Mr. Phillips tries to switch up the species in the parkways to maximize the plant survival.

3. Energy Efficiency

- **ComEd Home Energy Audits and Energy Efficiency Report**

Mr. Lichterman noted this would be postponed until the Fall.

- **North Shore Gas Small Business and Residential Customer Efficiency Program**

Mr. Lichterman explained the North Shore Gas program has an opportunity to be unique to Deerfield and a couple neighboring towns. The two programs are very similar to the energy efficiency program from ComEd. North Shore Gas has additional funding to target Deerfield, Lake Forest, Highland Park and Lake Bluff. The Village, along with the Chamber, will help message the program to businesses and will try to get some businesses to join the webinar and take advantage of some programs. The Village will also work with residents to join separate webinars as well as educate them to take advantage of rebates and incentives available from North Shore Gas.

4. Other Items for Discussion

- **Update re: Aggregation 2.0 Program – 100% Renewable Energy**

Mr. Lichterman noted the program has been approved by the Board of Trustees and it is estimated the Village will get a \$60,000 civic contribution to use to purchase renewable energy credits.

Mr. Heller noted there was an article published about plastic chips in the Great Lakes. He spoke with a friend, who researched it, and it is not of concern because our water is filtered.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments in person, on Zoom or via email.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, Commissioner Heller moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tometz seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Call, Heller, Krakoviak, Mertes, Tometz, Wolkenberg, Anderson (7)

NAYS: None (0)

The next scheduled Sustainability Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Cotton
Secretary