

**VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
April 4, 2023 – MINUTES**

**Virtual meeting participation allowed in accordance with Public Act 101-0640**

Members in Attendance

Natalie Lichtenbert, Co-Chair  
Trustee Anna Newell (virtual)  
Lon Harner  
Sheila Schwartz  
Kymberli Mulford  
Hannelore Conley  
Nancy Schaefer  
Lorraine Leisenberg  
Alfredo Izquierdo (virtual)  
George Tuhowski  
Amy Decker

Members Absent

Chrissy Christian, Co-Chair  
Trustee Gary Pilafas  
Lewis Boshier

**Others in attendance:** Rhonda Spenner, resident; Dale Spenner, resident; Amy Hartsough, resident; William Lafontaine, resident; Aaron Howe, Assistant to the Public Works Director (staff liaison)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Chairperson Lichtenbert. A majority quorum of the commission was present at this time.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 7, 2023**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Harner, **SECOND** by Commissioner Schaefer to approve the minutes from March 7, 2023 as amended – **11-0 AYE.**

**3. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Mr. Howe provided a reminder to the commission that Green Grease will be joining the Commission's May meeting to discuss residential and commercial grease collection and repurpose/recycling.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Citizens Utility Board Solar Event

The commission discussed the possibility to host a CUB solar power hour event or similar in 2023. Commissioner Conley recommended focusing on September/October for this event as solar is the selected subject matter for those months in the Commission content calendar. Commissioner Schwartz proposed including a Village representative that can provide information on the Village's specific requirements for solar installations.

b. Environmental Fair – Saturday, June 10, 2023

Co-Chair Lichtenbert provided event details and requested additional volunteers from the commission to assist. Mr. Howe will also provide the seed packets that were ordered in 2022 to distribute to residents. The commission discussed QR codes and print materials that should be available for residents at the event. Commissioners Harner and Decker supported print materials to encourage conversation and accommodate potentially disadvantaged groups that may prefer print over digital. Mr. Howe will work with the commission to prepare both for this event.

c. Pollinator Month (June) - BioBlitz w/Illinois Monarch Project and Park District

Co-chair Lichtenbert presented the idea of hosting a Hoffman Estates BioBlitz with the Park District and the Illinois Monarch Project. She will provide more information for our meeting in April

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Earth Day (April) – Park District Partnership

Co-Chair Lichtenbert reminded the commission of the Park District's event to be held 4/22 from 8am to 11am. Commissioner Leisenberg informed commissioners that the Park District would prefer volunteers to register online in advance.

b. Pollinator Month (June) – BioBlitz w/ Illinois Monarch Project and Park District

Co-Chair Lichtenbert provided the commission with event details (6/19-6/25). The commission discussed how to market this event to assist with volunteers and expand the Commission's social media and E-News presence.

c. Commission Annual Report/Sustainability Plan Status Update

Mr. Howe will provide an update on this item at a future meeting of the commission.

d. Green Business Program Refresh/Promotion

Mr. Howe informed the commission that Green Business Spotlight interviews are currently being scheduled with Leopardo and the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Harner discussed similar programs in other regional communities and opportunities to expand what is currently offered in Hoffman Estates. Commissioner Decker recommended improved follow-up once a business is designated. Commissioner Tuhowski provided a history of how standards were established/set.

e. Sustainability Commission Website Improvements

Mr. Howe will prepare sample pages for discussion at a future meeting of the commission. Sustainable law care practices and various educational materials were also discussed.

f. Village Entryway Sign Landscaping

Mr. Howe will continue working with the sub-committee on this item.

g. Sustainable Practices at Village Events

Co-Chair Lichtenbert shared an updated draft infographic with the commission for review.

h. Event and Newsletter Calendar

Mr. Howe will share the previous draft calendar with the commission.

i. Right-of-way Restoration Materials

Commissioner Tuhowski emphasized the need to discuss this item and resolve concerns prior to the next construction season. Commissioner Conley discussed the challenges and environmental impacts of the netting used in certain restoration materials. Mr. Howe will continue discussing this item with the sub-committee to continue discussing at a future meeting of the commission.

j. Mayor's Monarch Pledge

This item will be discussed at a future meeting of the commission.

k. Plastic Free July

Mr. Howe will distribute an infographic shared by Co-Chair Lichtenbert.

**6. OTHER**

**7. ITEMS IN REVIEW**

- a. Sustainability Projects – Green Aggregation Civic Contribution Funds
- b. Stormwater Mitigation/Management
- c. New Commissioner Onboarding Materials

**8. ADJOURNMENT** – 7:49 pm.

*The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.*