

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
June 6, 2023 – MINUTES

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

Members in Attendance

Natalie Lichtenbert, Co-Chair
Lon Harner
Lewis Boshier
Kymberli Mulford
Hannelore Conley
Lorrain Leisenberg
George Tuhowski
Amy Decker

Members Absent

Chrissy Christian, Co-Chair
Trustee Anna Newell
Trustee Gary Pilafas
Sheila Schwartz
Nancy Schaefer
Alfredo Izquierdo

Others in attendance: Amy Hartsough, resident; Bianca Aguilar, resident

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairperson Lichtenbert. A majority quorum of the commission was present at this time.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments made at this meeting. Residents in attendance introduced themselves to commissioners as a courtesy.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Commissioner Harner; **SECOND** by Chairperson Lichtenbert to approve the minutes from May 3, 2023 – **8-0 AYE**

4. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Howe provided an update on Chairperson Christian's excused absence from the commission.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Green Business Application – Heritage-Crystal Clean

The commission discussed the details of the green business application from Heritage-Crystal Clean and vote to approve said application unanimously. Commissioners held a general discussion on the benefits of this program. It was determined that new Green Businesses should also be offered Spotlight interviews, similar to what was done for the Chamber of Commerce and Leopardo recently.

MOTION by Chairperson Lichtenbert, **SECOND** by Commissioner Harner to approve the Green Business Program application from Heritage-Crystal Clean – **8-0 AYE**.

b. Commission Business Cards

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:00pm at Village Hall

Commissioners discussed what information makes the most sense to include on a business card that the group can all use. Commissioner Schwartz had provided an example at a previous meeting of the commission. Mr. Howe will prepare an additional example to be reviewed at a future meeting of the commission.

c. Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz – September 2023

Commissioner Leisenberg provided information on the Parks for Pollinators program through iNaturalist, which promotes a month-long educational program. The commission hosted a BioBlitz in 2022 as well. Commissioners discussed improving marketing of this event by sharing information with local school districts. Additional information specific to what a BioBlitz is and what participants are asked to do was proposed. Planning for a September event will continue at future meetings of the commission.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Schaumburg Environmental Fair – June 10, 2023

It was determined that commissioners were unavailable to attend the event this year.

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

Chairperson Lichtenbert shared information on the June 19th through June 23rd event.

c. Mayor’s Monarch Pledge

Commissioner Mulford shared information on the July 13th event. The Rotary Club has expressed interest in working with the commission on general maintenance of the butterfly garden located at 630 Illinois Boulevard. Volunteer opportunities were discussed.

d. Plastic Free July

Commissioner Leisenberg will share example content from other communities for review, including the previous example prepared by Chairperson Lichtenbert.

e. Citizens Utility Board Solar Event

Mr. Howe will identify potential dates for a CUB presentation in October or November 2023.

f. Communications Sub-Committee Update/Event and Newsletter Calendar

The Communications Subcommittee provided a two-month content schedule for review and feedback. Commissioner Mulford requested that other interested commissioners can/should assist in preparing this content. Commissioner Conley also asked for additional content based on others’ areas of interest.

g. Website Improvements

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:00pm at Village Hall

Mr. Howe will prepare a sample page for the commission to review at a future meeting based on commission feedback. Commissioner Mulford prepared a website map for Mr. Howe to refer to while preparing drafts.

h. Right-of-Way Restoration Materials

Commissioners Conley and Tuhowski provided a summary of their meeting with the Village Engineer to discuss ROW restorations. There is the potential to impact restoration standards that will be used beginning in 2024 if the commission is able to propose viable alternatives, which may include hydro-seeding. Commissioner Tuhowski discussed improved educational materials to accompany higher quality restorations to ensure residents provide the proper care to ensure a successful restoration.

7. OTHER

8. ITEMS IN REVIEW

a. Sustainability Projects – Green Aggregation Civic Contribution Funds

b. Stormwater Mitigation/Management

Commissioner Tuhowski provided details on conversations with the Village Engineer.

c. New Commissioner Onboarding Materials

d. Village Entryway Sign Landscaping

Mr. Howe reported that Public Works will be planting at 3 sites in the coming weeks – Barrington Road; Algonquin Road; and Higgins Road. This will include some combination of prairie grass, day lilies, and bee balm or other pollinator-friendly plantings. This will be a trial run for the potential to repeat or expand this effort in 2024.

e. Green Business Program Refresh/Promotion

Green Business Spotlight interviews are now online on the Village's YouTube channel. Commissioners were asked to review and provide feedback.

f. Sustainable Practices at Village Events

g. Commission Annual Report/Sustainability Plan Status Update

9. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:00pm at Village Hall