

MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
July 17, 2019
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at the Municipal Complex in Crystal Lake.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following committee members: Chair John Kavalunas, Terry Dieckhoff, Scott Hennings, Lehn Shepherd, Emilie Hoffman and Greg Glover. Members of the public in attendance were Jen Oliver, Joe Babiarz, Nicky Strahl, Lara Smith, and Nick Hammonds, Management Analyst.

III. Public Comment

Four guests interested in joining the Committee were in attendance at the meeting. The Committee members each introduced themselves, and the new applicants briefly discussed their backgrounds.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from May 15, 2019

Due to the cancellation of the June 2019 meeting, Scott Hennings moved to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2019 meeting as amended. Terry Dieckhoff seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

V. Bike With Your Neighbor Event: Review

John Kavalunas began the discussion of the Bike With Your Neighbor event by reviewing the attendance at the June event. He stated that about 50 people took part, and that the Committee could improve attendance in the future. John Kavalunas discussed the bike rodeo at the event. Although there were few participants for the rodeo, the Committee agrees that the rodeo should continue as part of the event. The participation by the Park District Police at the event was appreciated by each member of the Committee.

John Kavalunas inquired to the guests in attendance if they had received any notice that the event was occurring. Nicky Strahl stated that she saw a Facebook post that was shared by a friend. John Kavalunas discussed the role that schools could take in promoting the event in the future. The Committee members and guests discussed the email notification tools utilized by the elementary schools and school district to provide information to parents. The Committee will contact the school district to promote the event next year.

John Kavalunas began a discussion of the prizes for the event. Helmets appeared to be an item that was not sought after by attendants at the event. The Committee agreed to provide one helmet for the raffle at the 2020 event. Emilie Hoffman stated that the bike lights and bells were popular items.

Scott Hennings stated that he did not hear about any issues with the bike map at the event. Event attendees appeared to use the printed maps without issue. Lehn Shepherd stated that in the future, it would be beneficial to include the time that riders should report back to Main Beach on both the map and the question sheet.

John Kavalunas stated that it is difficult to maintain awareness of the event after missing the event in 2018. John Kavalunas discussed the feedback he received from the Lucky Brake representative, who stated that the Committee should not be discouraged by the turnout. Scott Hennings discussed the possibility of terminating the event in future years or the Committee should increase outreach efforts. Consensus of the Committee was that the Committee should hold the event in 2020 and monitor the attendance to decide whether to continue the event.

Joe Babiarz inquired about the target audience for the event. Lehn Shepherd stated that the demographics for the event appeared to change. Emilie Hoffman stated that she was surprised at the number of adults who attended the event. John Kavalunas stated that the primary focus and target audience has always been families. The bike rodeo is geared toward children. Lara Smith stated that promoting the event through the schools would be beneficial. Greg Glover stated that McHenry County College holds events and expos where the Committee could promote the event. Jen Oliver discussed the Green Expo hosted by the college that would fit with the narrative of the BWYN event.

VI. Greenest Region Compact (GRC): Review of Achievable Initiatives

John Kavalunas began the discussion of the GRC by describing the approach the Committee is taking to address items in the document. Each member has identified items for the Committee to focus on, which will include communication between the members and City staff.

The Committee began a discussion of the narrowed GRC items. Each member provided feedback regarding the GRC items that they believe the Committee could focus in for the next year. The Committee agreed to combine certain items and narrow the list of achievable line items down to five objectives. Below is a list of the agreed upon 12-month objectives:

- Complete Streets Policy
- Energy Star certification for Municipal Properties
- Communication of Sustainability Committee initiatives, actions and goals
- Promote and support local businesses that practice sustainability
- Plastic bag bans

Joe Babiarz inquired about the goals of the Committee in pursuing GRC items. The Committee discussed the importance of narrowing the list of items to ensure that the Committee identifies achievable items that could help the City of Crystal Lake in the near future. John Kavalunas stated that the Committee is trying to re-establish initiatives and goals to ensure that the Committee does more than promote biking in

the community. John Kavalunas stated that although promotion of biking is positive and the Committee will continue to support biking, the GRC action items will help guide the Committee going forward. Terry Dieckhoff stated that the Committee is meant to be a guideline for the City regarding green initiatives.

Scott Hennings described the possibility that the City of Crystal Lake may establish a policy regarding Complete Streets in 2019. Greg Glover and John Kavalunas agreed the Committee could take part in the discussion of the policy. Nick Hammonds will contact Abby Wilgreen to provide an update to the Committee regarding the policy.

Lara Smith discussed the importance of communication in relation to the Committee's efforts. She asked how the Committee typically provides information to the public. Nick Hammonds stated that the City website and newsletter are the main sources of information, followed by social media. Joe Babiarz stated that it would be beneficial for the Committee and the community to promote the goals of the Committee. The community would benefit from increased awareness about sustainable objectives and efforts.

John Kavalunas stated that the Committee would benefit from establishing items from the GRC as actionable measures that can be tracked to show progress over time. Emilie Hoffman stated that it is difficult for residents to be aware of all sustainable efforts occurring in the community. She stated that other communities post the GRC online and update the items as they are completed. Joe Babiarz stated that the Committee could promote the current status of where the City is at with each GRC item, and also promote the initiatives and goals that the Committee is undertaking. Continuous education is key to promoting these efforts and generating interest and knowledge in the community.

Lara Smith inquired about the role the Committee is taking in relation to the City and sustainable efforts. Terry Dieckhoff stated that the Committee provides feedback and recommendations to the City Council regarding sustainable options and objectives. Nicky Strahl asked if the Committee provides reports to the City Council periodically. Nick Hammonds will inquire about the City Council's preference for receiving updates from the Committee.

VII. Bicycle Friendly Community/Bike Shop Application Discussion

John Kavalunas inquired if the Committee members have updates regarding the Bicycle Friendly Community designation. Scott Hennings stated that the Committee has been working towards the designation, however, Greg Glover stated that the Committee can still work on advocating for the City regarding items in the GRC that relate to the Bicycle Friendly Community designation.

VIII. Night Owl Bike Event Update

The Committee inquired if the event has been approved. Nick Hammonds confirmed the event has been approved, and Scott Hennings stated that the event will be held on August 3, 2019. The Land Conservancy has re-established administration of the event.

IX. Johnny Appleseed Festival Discussion

John Kavalunas stated that the Committee will have a booth at the Johnny Appleseed Festival again in 2019. The event will be held on Saturday, September 28th. Greg Glover stated that the Committee should communicate the GRC items that the Committee is pursuing. The Committee and guests discussed the items that can be promoted or used as a giveaway attraction. These items include reusable bags, water bottles, light bulbs, rain barrels, nest thermostats and compost bins from Prairieland Disposal. John Kavalunas stated that he will contact ComEd to confirm their availability to attend the Festival.

Lara Smith discussed the benefits of having a visual aid at the booth. Joe Babiarz discussed certain handouts that would be succinct and beneficial to communicate the Committee's initiatives and objectives. Jen Oliver stated that compost bins may need to be purchased to discourage event attendees from disposing of the bins after receiving the handout. The Committee agreed that efforts should be made to ensure that items are not thrown away immediately after the event. Nick Hammonds will inquire if Prairieland Disposal would be interested in participating with the event, or at least providing a volume discount on covered compost bins.

X. Eco-Friendly Outdoor Movie

The Committee discussed the feasibility of hosting an outdoor movie event. Scott Hennings stated that the event would need to occur with the assistance of the Park District, and may not occur in 2019. John Kavalunas stated that the outdoor movie proposal will be saved for 2020.

XI. Open Discussion

John Kavalunas discussed a proposal that the Committee received from Husmann Elementary School. The school's librarian, Tina Serra, is organizing an eco-friendly and climate conscious event in early November and asked if the Committee is willing to participate. The Committee agreed to participate in the event. Nick Hammonds will contact Tina Serra to confirm the Committee's interest and to determine a framework for the information that the school would like the Committee to communicate.

Scott Hennings stated that he will be stepping back from his position on the Committee. He advised that he will continue to participate on the Committee as a citizen.

John Kavalunas discussed an article he read regarding journalistic reporting and the comparison of reporting on historical events to reporting on the urgency of climate change.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

XIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, Scott Hennings moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Greg Glover seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.