

MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
August 21, 2019
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at the Municipal Complex in Crystal Lake.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

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

III. Public Comment

Joe Scherb introduced himself to the Committee and discussed his role with the Bicycle Friendly Community initiative in Crystal Lake and Algonquin.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from July 17, 2019

Greg Glover moved to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2019 meeting as amended. Nicky Strahl seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

V. Greenest Region Compact (GRC): Review Priority Objectives, Identify Committee Member(s) Lead, and Setting Timelines

John Kavalunas began the discussion of the GRC by reviewing the five priority objectives identified by the Committee and the need to establish a timeline for each item. The Committee then discussed members to assign to each item. Below is a breakdown of the Committee member assigned to each objective:

-Complete Streets Policy: Greg Glover

-Energy Star certification for Municipal Properties: John Kavalunas and Terry Dieckhoff

-Communication of Sustainability Committee initiatives, actions and goals: Lara Smith

-Promote and support local businesses that practice sustainability: Emilie Hoffman

-Plastic bag bans: Nicky Strahl

John Kavalunas stated that Committee members who were unable to attend tonight's meeting could select any of the above objectives to assist other members. The Committee agreed that having multiple members working together on each objective would be ideal.

Lara Smith discussed the timeline for the communication objective. She stated that the website and City newsletter would be ideal places to start sharing information about the Committee and sustainable initiatives. John Kavalunas discussed the possibility of getting information in the school newsletters. Tina Serra, Library Director leading the Environmental Club at Husmann Elementary, has been supportive of similar ideas. Nick Hammonds will share Tina Serra's contact information with Lara Smith. Emilie Hoffman discussed the possibility of creating a section in the newsletter just for the Committee. The

section could be referred to as the “Green Corner” or a similar moniker to share green initiatives with the community. Nick Hammonds discussed the timeline and approval process for submitting articles in the City newsletter. The Committee will discuss an article to promote at the next meeting and scheduling the article for the December newsletter.

Greg Glover discussed the Complete Streets Policy and the potential for the Committee to be involved in the next three months. Nick Hammonds will reach out to Abby Wilgreen, City Engineer, to gather feedback regarding the Committee’s involvement with the policy. Greg Glover stated that he will work with Scott Hennings on the Complete Streets objective.

Greg Glover discussed banning plastic bags and that this objective would have to work through City Staff. John Kavalunas inquired if anyone on the Committee had experience with plastic bag bans. Nicky Strahl discussed the developments in Woodstock and Algonquin regarding plastic bag bans. She stated that there is often public outcry and pushback when something is banned outright. However, implementing a charge to use plastic bags would be more effective in reducing plastic bag use. Lara Smith stated that relating the issue to public health instead of climate change specifically may be more effective. John Kavalunas and Nicky Strahl agreed that the Committee could begin working on options regarding the plastic bag ban for the September meeting.

Emilie Hoffman and Nicky Strahl discussed options to get buy-in from local businesses regarding plastic bag bans. Emilie Hoffman also discussed how promoting and supporting local businesses is closely related to the communication objective. The Committee agreed that communication efforts could all relate to promoting local sustainable businesses.

John Kavalunas and Terry Dieckhoff agreed to pursue the Energy Star objective. John Kavalunas asked Nick Hammonds about contacts with the City regarding Energy Star certification. Nick Hammonds will contact City staff and refer John Kavalunas to the correct staff member. John Kavalunas and Terry Dieckhoff agreed that they could start with an inquiry in the next month regarding Energy Star.

VI. Bicycle Friendly Community/Bike Shop Application Discussion

John Kavalunas asked Joe Scherb to provide input regarding his efforts related to Bicycle Friendly businesses and communities. Joe Scherb stated that he has been working with Wheel Werks regarding the designation. John Kavalunas advised that he would join Joe Scherb in talking with the owner of Wheel Werks regarding submission of the Bicycle Friendly Business application to achieve the designation. John Kavalunas stated that the manager of Lucky Brake may be a person to contact regarding the designation as well. Greg Glover discussed the difficulties for the City to achieve the designation, however, the Committee’s efforts to engage businesses could help long-term.

VII. Johnny Appleseed Festival Volunteer Discussion, Content and Handouts/Prizes

John Kavalunas began the Johnny Appleseed Festival discussion by reviewing a proposed timeline for shifts at the event. Below is a tentative schedule agreed upon by the Committee:

8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Nick and Terry

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Greg and John

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Lara and Emilie

Nick Hammonds will be available to setup the table and also to close down the table at the end of the event. Nicky Strahl stated that she is not available on the day of the Festival, but she will make an appearance to help out. The Committee agreed that Ryan Pettit, Lehn Shepherd, and Joe Babiarz can fill in at any of the three shifts.

John Kavalunas stated that ComEd will not have their own booth at the Festival. He discussed the Festival process for vendors and that a ComEd representative will make an appearance at the Festival. John Kavalunas also discussed the possibility of reaching out to Scott Kuykendall to provide his water infiltration display. Terry Dieckhoff advised that he will contact Scott Kuykendall.

The Committee discussed visual aids to display and handout at the Festival. The Committee agreed to display bike maps and trails within Crystal Lake, promoting the Bike With Your Neighbor event with promotional fliers, recycling guidelines, compost guidelines, and the rain barrel program. Greg Glover stated that he will bring a map of trails in the City. John Kavalunas discussed the option of printing a map of Crystal Lake trails and posting ‘rules of the road’ on the back of the handout. The Committee could also print a screenshot of the website showing the Committee’s mission. The Committee agreed that educating the public to raise awareness about bike trails and sustainable efforts can be a focus at the event.

Emilie Hoffman discussed the possibility of gathering emails from interested Festival participants. Lara Smith agreed that the email list could be used to contact people and promote the Bike With Your neighbor event. The Committee discussed using two separate lists to gather emails from people interested in sustainable efforts generally, and emails for people interested in the Bike With Your Neighbor event specifically.

The Committee discussed the importance of having an interactive display at the Festival, and not just handouts. Emilie Hoffman discussed how people will grab handouts or reusable bags, but these items are often thrown away after the event. Emilie Hoffman discussed the possibility of a recycling contest where parents and children could ‘face-off’ in a challenge to see who knows more regarding proper recycling. Emilie Hoffman will provide more proposed details at the next meeting.

John Kavalunas asked if Prairieland Disposal could offer discounts for compost bins. Nick Hammonds will reach out to Prairieland. Terry Dieckhoff stated that having a display of what the compost bin looks like would be helpful.

The Committee discussed prizes and handouts, including seeds or gift baskets. The Committee agreed that gathering emails to enter people into a drawing for three prizes would be ideal. The prizes would be oriented towards promoting sustainability and the

Committee will also be able to gather emails from people interested in sustainability. The Committee agreed to review a list of proposed prizes at the next meeting to be prepared for the Johnny Appleseed Festival (e.g. toy, bike, green option).

VIII. Open Discussion

Terry Dieckhoff stated that Green Drinks will be having a presentation by the Illinois Environmental Council to review the past ten years of their efforts and the outlook for the next ten years. Terry Dieckhoff stated the event will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 if any members would like to attend.

John Kavalunas stated that, due to work, he will be late to the next Committee meeting in September. The Committee agreed to commence the September 18, 2019 meeting at 7:15 p.m. The same meeting time is anticipated for October and November.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business, Terry Dieckhoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Nicky Strahl seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
August 21, 2019
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at the Municipal Complex in Crystal Lake.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

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

III. Public Comment

Joe Scherb introduced himself to the Committee and discussed his role with the Bicycle Friendly Community initiative in Crystal Lake and Algonquin.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from July 17, 2019

Greg Glover moved to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2019 meeting as amended. Nicky Strahl seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

V. Greenest Region Compact (GRC): Review Priority Objectives, Identify Committee Member(s) Lead, and Setting Timelines

John Kavalunas began the discussion of the GRC by reviewing the five priority objectives identified by the Committee and the need to establish a timeline for each item. The Committee then discussed members to assign to each item. Below is a breakdown of the Committee member assigned to each objective:

-Complete Streets Policy: Greg Glover

-Energy Star certification for Municipal Properties: John Kavalunas and Terry Dieckhoff

-Communication of Sustainability Committee initiatives, actions and goals: Lara Smith

-Promote and support local businesses that practice sustainability: Emilie Hoffman

-Plastic bag bans: Nicky Strahl

John Kavalunas stated that Committee members who were unable to attend tonight's meeting could select any of the above objectives to assist other members. The Committee agreed that having multiple members working together on each objective would be ideal.

Lara Smith discussed the timeline for the communication objective. She stated that the website and City newsletter would be ideal places to start sharing information about the Committee and sustainable initiatives. John Kavalunas discussed the possibility of getting information in the school newsletters. Tina Serra, Library Director leading the Environmental Club at Husmann Elementary, has been supportive of similar ideas. Nick Hammonds will share Tina Serra's contact information with Lara Smith. Emilie Hoffman discussed the possibility of creating a section in the newsletter just for the Committee. The

section could be referred to as the “Green Corner” or a similar moniker to share green initiatives with the community. Nick Hammonds discussed the timeline and approval process for submitting articles in the City newsletter. The Committee will discuss an article to promote at the next meeting and scheduling the article for the December newsletter.

Greg Glover discussed the Complete Streets Policy and the potential for the Committee to be involved in the next three months. Nick Hammonds will reach out to Abby Wilgreen, City Engineer, to gather feedback regarding the Committee’s involvement with the policy. Greg Glover stated that he will work with Scott Hennings on the Complete Streets objective.

Greg Glover discussed banning plastic bags and that this objective would have to work through City Staff. John Kavalunas inquired if anyone on the Committee had experience with plastic bag bans. Nicky Strahl discussed the developments in Woodstock and Algonquin regarding plastic bag bans. She stated that there is often public outcry and pushback when something is banned outright. However, implementing a charge to use plastic bags would be more effective in reducing plastic bag use. Lara Smith stated that relating the issue to public health instead of climate change specifically may be more effective. John Kavalunas and Nicky Strahl agreed that the Committee could begin working on options regarding the plastic bag ban for the September meeting.

Emilie Hoffman and Nicky Strahl discussed options to get buy-in from local businesses regarding plastic bag bans. Emilie Hoffman also discussed how promoting and supporting local businesses is closely related to the communication objective. The Committee agreed that communication efforts could all relate to promoting local sustainable businesses.

John Kavalunas and Terry Dieckhoff agreed to pursue the Energy Star objective. John Kavalunas asked Nick Hammonds about contacts with the City regarding Energy Star certification. Nick Hammonds will contact City staff and refer John Kavalunas to the correct staff member. John Kavalunas and Terry Dieckhoff agreed that they could start with an inquiry in the next month regarding Energy Star.

VI. Bicycle Friendly Community/Bike Shop Application Discussion

John Kavalunas asked Joe Scherb to provide input regarding his efforts related to Bicycle Friendly businesses and communities. Joe Scherb stated that he has been working with Wheel Werks regarding the designation. John Kavalunas advised that he would join Joe Scherb in talking with the owner of Wheel Werks regarding submission of the Bicycle Friendly Business application to achieve the designation. John Kavalunas stated that the manager of Lucky Brake may be a person to contact regarding the designation as well. Greg Glover discussed the difficulties for the City to achieve the designation, however, the Committee’s efforts to engage businesses could help long-term.

VII. Johnny Appleseed Festival Volunteer Discussion, Content and Handouts/Prizes

John Kavalunas began the Johnny Appleseed Festival discussion by reviewing a proposed timeline for shifts at the event. Below is a tentative schedule agreed upon by the Committee:

8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Nick and Terry

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Greg and John

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Lara and Emilie

Nick Hammonds will be available to setup the table and also to close down the table at the end of the event. Nicky Strahl stated that she is not available on the day of the Festival, but she will make an appearance to help out. The Committee agreed that Ryan Pettit, Lehn Shepherd, and Joe Babiarz can fill in at any of the three shifts.

John Kavalunas stated that ComEd will not have their own booth at the Festival. He discussed the Festival process for vendors and that a ComEd representative will make an appearance at the Festival. John Kavalunas also discussed the possibility of reaching out to Scott Kuykendall to provide his water infiltration display. Terry Dieckhoff advised that he will contact Scott Kuykendall.

The Committee discussed visual aids to display and handout at the Festival. The Committee agreed to display bike maps and trails within Crystal Lake, promoting the Bike With Your Neighbor event with promotional fliers, recycling guidelines, compost guidelines, and the rain barrel program. Greg Glover stated that he will bring a map of trails in the City. John Kavalunas discussed the option of printing a map of Crystal Lake trails and posting ‘rules of the road’ on the back of the handout. The Committee could also print a screenshot of the website showing the Committee’s mission. The Committee agreed that educating the public to raise awareness about bike trails and sustainable efforts can be a focus at the event.

Emilie Hoffman discussed the possibility of gathering emails from interested Festival participants. Lara Smith agreed that the email list could be used to contact people and promote the Bike With Your neighbor event. The Committee discussed using two separate lists to gather emails from people interested in sustainable efforts generally, and emails for people interested in the Bike With Your Neighbor event specifically.

The Committee discussed the importance of having an interactive display at the Festival, and not just handouts. Emilie Hoffman discussed how people will grab handouts or reusable bags, but these items are often thrown away after the event. Emilie Hoffman discussed the possibility of a recycling contest where parents and children could ‘face-off’ in a challenge to see who knows more regarding proper recycling. Emilie Hoffman will provide more proposed details at the next meeting.

John Kavalunas asked if Prairieland Disposal could offer discounts for compost bins. Nick Hammonds will reach out to Prairieland. Terry Dieckhoff stated that having a display of what the compost bin looks like would be helpful.

The Committee discussed prizes and handouts, including seeds or gift baskets. The Committee agreed that gathering emails to enter people into a drawing for three prizes would be ideal. The prizes would be oriented towards promoting sustainability and the

Committee will also be able to gather emails from people interested in sustainability. The Committee agreed to review a list of proposed prizes at the next meeting to be prepared for the Johnny Appleseed Festival (e.g. toy, bike, green option).

VIII. Open Discussion

Terry Dieckhoff stated that Green Drinks will be having a presentation by the Illinois Environmental Council to review the past ten years of their efforts and the outlook for the next ten years. Terry Dieckhoff stated the event will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 if any members would like to attend.

John Kavalunas stated that, due to work, he will be late to the next Committee meeting in September. The Committee agreed to commence the September 18, 2019 meeting at 7:15 p.m. The same meeting time is anticipated for October and November.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business, Terry Dieckhoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Nicky Strahl seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.