

MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
September 18, 2019
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:21 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at the Municipal Complex in Crystal Lake.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following committee members: Chair John Kavalunas, Emilie Hoffman, Lara Smith, Terry Dieckhoff, and Joe Babiarz. Members of the public in attendance were Dean Farr, Cynthia Kanner, Executive Director of the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, and Nick Hammonds, Management Analyst.

III. Public Comment

Dean Farr and Cynthia Kanner introduced themselves to the Committee. Dean Farr provided a brief history of the environmental initiatives that rose out of the oil embargo of the early 1970s. Cynthia Kanner provided insights regarding plastic bag bans during the Greenest Region Compact discussion.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from August 21, 2019

John Kavalunas moved to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2019 meeting as amended. Emilie Hoffman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

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

John Kavalunas began the Johnny Appleseed Festival discussion by reviewing the proposed timeline for shifts at the event. Terry Dieckhoff stated that Scott Kuykendall will be present at the Festival in the morning to showcase his water display. John Kavalunas stated that a representative with ComEd will also be present at the Festival. Below is a 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

John Kavalunas discussed the games and handouts that will be displayed at the Festival. Emilie Hoffman stated that she will have the garbage vs. recycling game ready for Nick Hammonds to bring to the table in the morning of the Festival. The Committee discussed the handouts that should be displayed at the Festival. The Committee agreed to have handouts for Prairieland Disposal's composting program, a map of Crystal Lake bike maps, handouts promoting the 2020 Bike With Your Neighbor (BWYN) event, and sign-up sheets to record contact information for the drawing. Nick Hammonds will prepare the handouts. The Committee agreed to set a tentative date of June 14, 2020 to include on the information for the BWYN.

Terry Dieckhoff proposed that the Committee prepare two baskets for the Festival prizes, and to not focus on biking as the theme of the prizes. The Committee discussed environmental items that could be purchased from local businesses. Two baskets will be presented as the prizes for the drawing, and both baskets will contain the same items. Lara Smith and Emilie Hoffman stated that they will help to determine the list of prizes and to put together the baskets ahead of the Festival. Terry Dieckhoff and John Kavalunas proposed the drawing to occur at 3:30 p.m., and the Committee agreed to the time proposed.

Cynthia Kanner proposed that the Committee could use a new rain barrel and have participants paint the barrel at the Committee's events. John Kavalunas stated that having the 'paint a barrel' at the Johnny Appleseed Festival may not be feasible due to limited space. Emilie Hoffman stated that having the 'paint a barrel' at the BWYN or other events could help to engage participants. John Kavalunas stated that the Committee could possibly come up with more ideas that would create another event hosted by the Committee.

During the Johnny Appleseed Festival discussion, Lara Smith discussed her conversations with Tina Serra, the Librarian at Husmann Elementary School who is organizing the school's environmental night on November 4th. Tina Serra has been supporting of the Committee and has offered to help promote sustainability in Crystal Lake. Lara Smith stated that Husmann Elementary is planning for the Committee to focus on biking and to promote the bike share program. John Kavalunas advised that he will contact Scott Hennings regarding the bike share display and also regarding his availability to attend the Johnny Appleseed Festival.

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

John Kavalunas began the discussion of the GRC by referring to Cynthia Kanner to review her experiences with plastic bag bans. Cynthia Kanner stated that she has worked with the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County since 2013, and that there have been new developments recently regarding plastic bag bans and use fees. She stated that the Woodstock City Council approved an ordinance at their September 17 meeting to charge a \$0.10 fee per bag at stores larger than 5,000 square feet.

The Committee discussed the process for implementing a plastic bag fee. Lara Smith stated that the fee is a great deterrent. Cynthia Kanner stated that bans created more backlash, so implementing a fee is more palatable. She also stated that the stores keep \$0.03 and Woodstock gets \$0.07 from each bag. Cynthia Kanner advised that she will be contacting Algonquin next regarding plastic bag fees, but that the proximity to Lake in the Hills may require an intergovernmental agreement.

Cynthia Kanner stated that the City of Chicago initially implemented a plastic bag ban, which was problematic because of the negative response from the public and paper bags were still allowed for free. Joe Babiarz asked how long the process was for Woodstock to adopt the ordinance. Cynthia Kanner stated that the idea had been in progress for years, but that the ordinance adoption process took a few months. John Kavalunas asked what

the timeline is for the fee to go into effect. Cynthia Kanner stated that the fee begins on January 1, 2020.

Cynthia Kanner stated that the plastic bag fee proposal began with the Woodstock Environmental Commission and that the fee is initially in place for one year. Lara Smith discussed how smaller stores would not be included in the fee charge, but that stores simply asking customers if they want a bag would reduce the amount of bags used. John Kavalunas stated that the Committee could promote reusable bags and where residents can find them. The Committee discussed how reusable bags are often provided for free or as promotional material.

Emilie Hoffman stated that the City approved the GRC, which includes goals towards eliminating plastic bag use, so it would be wise for Crystal Lake to pursue the bag fee. Dean Farr asked if Woodstock was in communication with local stores before implementing the fee. Cynthia Kanner stated that they were in communication with stores for multiple years.

John Kavalunas reviewed the five priority objectives identified by the Committee. Below is an updated 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 and Joe Babiarz

John Kavalunas stated that he is going to a full day walk and presentation by the City of Batavia on their Complete Streets program. He also stated that he emailed Mike Magnuson, Director of Public Works regarding Energy Star certification. John Kavalunas stated that he and Terry Dieckhoff should meet with Mike Magnuson prior to the next Committee meeting, to which Terry Dieckhoff agreed.

John Kavalunas and Lara Smith discussed communication efforts. Lara Smith stated that Tina Serra at Husmann Elementary has ideas to conduct outreach to kids and parents at the school.

Emilie Hoffman discussed her outreach efforts to local businesses. Emilie Hoffman stated that the business owners she spoke to in the downtown area believe they would benefit from getting their information in a City newsletter. Emilie Hoffman stated that focused on communicating with small businesses who have a sustainable or green initiative focus.

VII. Bicycle Friendly Community/Bike Shop Application Discussion

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 he and Joe Scherb will be meeting with the owner of Wheel Werks in October 2019.

VIII. Open Discussion

None.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business, Terry Dieckhoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Joe Babiarz seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.