

MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
December 16, 2020
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

2. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following committee members joining remotely via Zoom: Terry Dieckhoff, Jen Oliver, Lisa Janezic, Lara Smith, Sam Zurawski, and Emilie Hoffman joined the meeting via Zoom. Members of the public in attendance via Zoom were Jay Preusker, Dean Farr, and Assistant to the City Manager Nick Hammonds.

3. Public Comment

Jay Preusker introduced himself to the Committee. He stated that he is acclimating himself with local politics and committees to gain a better sense of what is going on in the community.

4. Approval of the Minutes from November 18, 2020

Lisa Janezic moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2020 meeting as amended. Sam Zurawski seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

5. Greenest Region Compact (GRC): Review Priority Objectives, Plastic Bag Objective Discussion, and Complete Streets Discussion

Below are the current priority objectives:

- Communication and Green Business Designation Program: Lara Smith and Emilie Hoffman
- Single Use Bag Ordinance: Nicky Strahl

Nick Hammonds briefly discussed the current status of the GRC items related to the Covid-19 pandemic disruptions. Single use bags will still be a topic held for later discussion. Emilie Hoffman asked if the Committee could go ahead with contacting the Chamber of Commerce. She stated that the Chamber is revamping their website and this may be a good time to get the Green Business designation information on their website. She also stated that having Chamber of Commerce staff attend a Committee meeting may be helpful. Nick Hammonds stated that he will inquire with staff for next steps that the Committee can take to go forward with the program.

6. Sustainability Committee Web Page

Nick Hammonds discussed the recent posting of the Facebook message created by the Committee and that the Committee is always encouraged to share information that could be utilized in a social media post or on the City's website.

7. Open Discussion

Nick Hammonds provided an update to the Committee regarding the EV charging station proposal and evaluation. Terry Dieckhoff suggested that placing the charging station near the Raue Theater parking lot at the corner of Brink Street and Grant Street would be the ideal location. Nick Hammonds

stated that the project is being evaluated now and the Committee's feedback would be included with the project.

Lisa Janezic inquired about the Food Shed Co-Op, which recently received approval for a location in Woodstock. Jen Oliver stated that the approved location is at the corner of Route 14 and Lake Shore Drive, near the Woodstock hospital. Jen Oliver stated that the Co-Op is still working on getting 700 more people to sign up before they start. She stated that the fee to become a member is \$200, which Jen Oliver, Terry Dieckhoff and Lara Smith have already become members.

Sam Zurawski inquired about the status of the roundabout projects that have been proposed at various locations in the City. Nick Hammonds stated that the roundabouts went to the City Council recently, and he will provide an update to the Committee regarding implementation timelines.

Terry Dieckhoff discussed an upcoming Green Drinks event on January 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held over Zoom, and guests are asked to sign up prior to attending.

Emilie Hoffman stated that she heard the downtown property at the corner of Main Street and Crystal Lake Avenue may be developed soon. She asked how the Committee could be involved with promoting sustainability as part of the development. Nick Hammonds stated that he has not yet received notice of specific plans for the property at this time. Nick will inquire to see how the Committee can support sustainable practices along with the development of the property. Dean Farr stated that this would be a great time for the Committee to be involved, since the property has not yet moved to active development yet.

Jen Oliver discussed the recent approval for a solar farm to be constructed in the Woodstock area. Lisa Janezic discussed a recent proposal for a solar farm that was rejected by neighboring homeowners in Woodstock. Shae stated that homeowners believed their property values may decrease from having a nearby solar farm. Terry Dieckhoff the possible reasons why homeowners may object to solar farms and he discussed the benefits of solar farms and how residents can join Community Solar to benefit from the solar panels. Jay Preusker inquired about why homeowners would think their property value would decrease from solar farms. He stated that he has seen many areas that put up natural sight line barriers so that people cannot see the panels.

Terry Dieckhoff discussed how developers and homeowners have potential reasons for fighting the development of land for solar panels. Terry stated that McHenry County has approved six solar farms for development so far. Lisa Janezic asked how homeowners can benefit from solar farms. Terry Dieckhoff discussed the process for signing up, reviewing potential companies to make sure they are legitimate, and the benefits of reduced electric bills and incentives for signing up. Terry stated that people interested in signing up for Community Solar can verify companies through the Citizen's Utility Board. The Committee agreed that sharing information about the Citizen's utility Board with the public would be beneficial.

Emilie Hoffman asked if anyone on the Committee was familiar with the 2030 Challenge. She stated that it is an initiative to have all new development to be carbon neutral by 2030. She will conduct research and report back to the Committee in January. Terry Dieckhoff stated that the City and County would be good resources to check on this.

Sam Zurawski stated that her company, Aptar, was recently recognized as one of the top 100 most responsible companies in the U.S. She asked if there is a way for the City to recognize this achievement by her company. Nick Hammonds stated he will follow up with staff to see if the company can be recognized and how the process would work. Sam Zurawski asked if this could be shared on City social media pages. She will draft a social media post for review.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, Sam Zurawski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Terry Dieckhoff seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.