

**MINUTES**  
**Sustainability Committee**  
**March 17, 2021**  
**Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

**2. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following committee members joining remotely via Zoom: Lisa Janezic, Lara Smith, Sam Zurawski, Emilie Hoffman, and Cordell Crane joined the meeting via Zoom. Members of the public in attendance were Kurt Reckamp with the Crystal Lake Park District, Director of Public Works Mike Magnuson and Assistant to the City Manager Nick Hammonds.

**3. Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

**4. Approval of the Minutes from January 20, 2021**

Sam Zurawski moved to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting as amended. Cordell Crane seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**5. Guest: Mike Magnuson, Director of Public Works and Engineering: City Rain Gardens**

Mike Magnuson presented the City's plans to construct rain gardens at two locations near Crystal Lake to improve ponding and drainage issues. The City received a ComEd grant and the McHenry County Block grant to help fund the project. Mike Magnuson stated that his goal today is to get the word out to the community to participate. Most of the work to construct the rain gardens will be done in-house by City staff, however, help from volunteers and contractors will be needed.

Mike Magnuson stated that the City is proposing rain gardens at two locations. The first is at the intersection of Clover Lane, Ivy Lane, and Edgewater where a depressional area exists. The second location includes two vacant lots at Fair Oaks Avenue and Corrine Avenue. The City will follow all stormwater rules and ordinances to develop the rain gardens for added water storage. Mike Magnuson stated that the City is looking to install plant species that will grow and thrive in the wet conditions in the rain gardens.

Lara Smith asked how the Committee can be involved to help. Nick Hammonds will provide the Committee members' emails to Mike to coordinate. Cordell Crane stated that he recently attended the McHenry County Water Resource Action Plan presentation, and Scott Kuykendall with McHenry County would be a good resource. Mike Stated that he will reach out to Scott with the County.

Cordell Crane asked if there were picture examples of a completed garden. Mike Magnuson stated that the completed garden will include native plant species that are meant to be inundated with water. Cordell Crane discussed the prairie plants that were installed along Rakow Road, but were later accidentally mowed by landscapers. Cordell discussed the importance of signage and education to

ensure the area is not disturbed. Cordell also asked if corporate sponsorship is allowed. Mike Magnuson said that individuals or local groups or businesses could all be involved to volunteer.

Lara Smith asked where the plants will be coming from for the rain gardens. Mike Magnuson said that local nurseries have plants that are suitable for rain gardens. The City will bid for plants when the time comes. Emilie Hoffman stated that there is a nonprofit organization called Wild Ones that has an Illinois Chapter providing free services for native plantings. She stated that they also do grants for plantings. Emilie Hoffman will share the information for Wild Ones with Mike Magnuson.

Mike Magnuson stated that he hopes the rain garden project is successful and can expand to add rain gardens in other areas of the City to help with stormwater and water quality. Lara Smith asked when the rain gardens will be completed. Mike Magnuson stated that the City anticipates completion of the project in fall 2021. Mike then thanked the Committee for their time.

**6. Bike With Your Neighbor: Tentative June 13, 2021: Guest Kurt Reckamp, Crystal Lake Park District**

Kurt Reckamp with the Crystal Lake Park District introduced himself to the Committee and discussed the 2020 plans for the Bike With Your Neighbor (BWYN) event. Kurt confirmed that June 13, 2021 is available for the Park District to host the BWYN event. He also stated that the summer brochure will not be mailed out this year. Instead, marketing will be performed through social media and online platforms.

Kurt Reckamp stated that the Park District has successfully coordinated advanced registration for their events in 2020. However, people will still arrive for events at the last minute, which will likely occur for the BWYN. Kurt stated that the Park District has an online registration platform that can be used for the event. The online registration will include a liability waiver for participants to sign for the event. Kurt also explained that participants who sign up through the online platform will have their emails saved, and an email list can be generated to notify participants the following year about the upcoming event.

Emilie Hoffman stated that she is in favor of the online registration to ensure a touchless process. Cordell Crane also agreed that online registration would be helpful to reach a wider audience. Lara Smith asked if participants will still be able to show up at the event without prior registration. Kurt Reckamp stated that the Park District will not turn away participants. Advanced registration will be encouraged, however, it will not be required to participate in the event.

Kurt Reckamp stated that the Park District's outdoors events have been selling out quickly. Due to the Covid pandemic and restrictions on indoor capacity, many outdoor events have received increased interest from the public.

Emilie Hoffman discussed options for activities for kids who complete the bike ride before the raffle. A mini-scavenger hunt could be set up within Main Beach, or a painting station for the kids to paint a rain barrel. Kurt Reckamp stated that the Park District is on board with any new activities to include with the event. Nick Hammonds will inquire about the cost of a rain barrel to have at Main Beach for painting.

Nick Hammonds discussed potential prizes with the Committee. Any items that are proposed for donation to be raffled will require special approval before the event. Cordell Crane proposed safety lights for bikes. He also stated that bike manufacturers could be contacted to possibly get some promotional “swagger” for the event. Emilie Hoffman proposed gift cards from local businesses for the raffle. Nick Hammonds stated that he will provide guidelines for donations for the Committee at the April meeting.

Nick Hammonds inquired if the Park District will be hosting the bike rodeo and leading the safety talk before the event begins. Kurt Reckamp confirmed that the Park District will host the rodeo and the Park District Police Chief will provide the safety talk. Nick Hammonds stated that he will follow up with Kurt regarding the free drink and ice cream coupons that were provided in previous years. Kurt Reckamp then thanked the Committee and offered his assistance as the event preparation continues.

**7. Greenest Region Compact (GRC): Green Business Designation Program**

Nick Hammonds provided an update regarding the status of the Green Business Designation program. The program proposal is in review by City staff and the Council will have a chance to review prior to the program becoming official. Nick will also provide feedback if the Committee can coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce to promote the program.

**8. MCC Walking Tour Request**

Nick Hammonds stated that he received a request from Kate Schraml and Kim Hankins from McHenry County College (MCC) regarding a potential sustainability walking tour or panel discussion in May. Kate and Kim were inquiring if any members of the Sustainability Committee were interested in participating. Nick stated that he has not received confirmation whether the event will be a walking tour or a panel discussion, as Kate and Kim are working on availability at MCC. Sam Zurawski stated that she is interested in participating. Nick Hammonds will follow up with Kate and Kim for more information to share with the Committee.

**9. Open Discussion**

Cordell Crane provided an update regarding the Green Drinks Water Resource Action Plan presentation provided by Scott Kuykendall with McHenry County. The presentation focused on the importance of agriculture and sustaining the wells and aquifers in our community. Cordell also stated that the presentation focused on new testing that monitors micro-plastics in drinking water. Cordell stated that overall, the presentation was very educational and enlightening.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**11. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Sam Zurawski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Emilie Hoffman seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.