

MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
July 21, 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, July 21, 2021 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

2. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following committee members: Lisa Janezic, Sam Zurawski, Emilie Hoffman, Terry Dieckhoff, Nicky Strahl, Jen Oliver, and Emily Conti. A member of the public in attendance was Assistant to the City Manager, Nick Hammonds.

3. Public Comment

Staff liaison Nick Hammonds welcomed Emily Conti to the Committee as its newest member.

4. Approval of the Minutes from May 19, 2021

Sam Zurawski moved to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2021 meeting as amended. Nicky Strahl seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

5. Bike With Your Neighbor Event Review

Terry Dieckhoff stated that overall the event went very smoothly. He said that the kids enjoyed the bike rodeo and following the Park District Police while they drove their motorcycle through the course. Nick Hammonds stated that about 50 people joined the event. The Committee agreed that the raffle at the end of the event went well. Sam Zurawski asked if any pictures from the event have been posted on the City website. Emilie Hoffman said she will email the photos that she took the day of the event. Nick Hammonds said he will post the new photos on the website.

6. Johnny Appleseed Festival: September 25, 2021

Nick Hammonds discussed the upcoming Johnny Appleseed Festival scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2021. The Committee discussed items to promote at the festival, including the Green Business Designation program and the Bike Share program. Nick Hammonds stated that the Committee will discuss plans for the event in more detail at the August and September Committee meetings.

Sam Zurawski discussed how having a bike share program bike at the festival would help promote the program and biking in general. Emilie Hoffman inquired if the Committee could supply compost bins for festivalgoers to dispose of perishable items. Nick Hammonds stated that Prairieland Disposal would be willing to supply compost bins. Terry Dieckhoff stated that the Committee could post information about compostable items to share at the festival.

7. Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Nick Hammonds reviewed the Mayors' Monarch Pledge progress with the Committee. He stated that the Committee can continue to review the action items for the pledge to find ways for the City to achieve more items. He also stated that milkweed is listed as a weed in the City Code, but that the

pollinators and butterflies rely on milkweed for their habitat. Lisa Janezic stated that one of the pledge action items is to remove milkweed as a weed from City Codes. Nick Hammonds stated that he will review with City staff about removing milkweed as a weed from the City Code.

Lisa Janezic also stated that banning the use of a specific pesticide is included on the action item list. Terry Dieckhoff said he thought the pesticide was already banned at Lowes and Menards. Nick Hammonds stated that he will confirm if this pesticide is banned or referenced in the Code.

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

Nick Hammonds stated that the Committee's Green Business program has been reviewed. Nick stated that the program is anticipated to go forward in the fall. Emilie Hoffman suggested that the Committee could invite businesses to a Committee meeting, or the Committee could hold a workshop, to help spread awareness and gain buy in from local businesses. Jen Oliver stated that the Committee could invite businesses to the next Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed how to promote the program at the Johnny Appleseed Festival. Jen Oliver stated that the Committee could print small cut outs with some information and a link for businesses to submit their application. Lisa Janezic suggested that the Committee could set up a table at the Dole Farmer's Market and promote the program. She also stated that the Dole Farmer's Market runs through the end of September. Emilie Hoffman stated that many artists and businesses rent the Dole for different uses, and setting up a booth may reach a wide audience.

9. Open Discussion

Rain Gardens: Nick Hammonds stated that the Public Works Rain Garden project is anticipated to begin in fall to coincide with the proper seed planting schedule. The Committee discussed their interest in participating with the project. Nick Strahl stated that OSLAD grant applications are now being accepted. Nick Hammonds stated that he would contact Public Works about the potential for more funding. The Committee discussed the areas where rain gardens are proposed and about other areas in the vicinity of Crystal Lake that have served as detention basins for water.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station: Nick Hammonds stated that the City is proceeding with the electric vehicle charging station project. This is anticipated to be installed before the fall near the downtown Metra station.

Bike Share Program: Emilie Hoffman discussed the bike share racks and limited publicity they have received. She stated that she has spoken with people who were not aware of the location of the bike rack. Nick Hammonds stated that he would contact the Community Development Department to post information about the bike share program on the Crystal Lake website. He also stated that the County may have additional information online about the program.

Prairie Trail Grant: Nick Hammonds discussed the recent City Council acceptance of grant funds for Prairie Trail improvements. He stated that he will share this information with the Committee shortly.

Roundabouts: Sam Zurawski inquired if additional information is available about the construction of roundabouts on Congress Parkway. Nick Hammonds stated that the City is proceeding with the process to acquire land and design the roundabouts at two intersections on Congress. Lisa Janezic stated that

many drivers are still unaware of how to navigate a roundabout. Nicky Strahl inquired if the roundabouts are meant to slow traffic or to increase safety. The Committee discussed how roundabouts make intersections safer, and although they may slow traffic, they keep traffic moving continuously.

Main Street Development: Emilie Hoffman discussed the Main Street and Crystal Lake Avenue development that was recently presented at a City Council meeting. She discussed the possibility of the development utilizing LEEDS green building standards. Nicky Strahl discussed how the Committee would support the use of LEEDS green building standards for new developments in the City. Nick Hammonds stated that he would bring this idea up with Community Development for evaluation.

Dole Avenue and Route 14 Mural: Jen Oliver discussed the abandoned gas station at the intersection and how the wall behind the cleaners would serve as a perfect backdrop for a mural to welcome people into Crystal Lake. She stated that a design contest could be held, and the artwork could promote Crystal Lake and sustainability. Nick Hammonds stated that he would also discuss this idea with Community Development for feedback.

Park District: Emilie Hoffman inquired about the trees that were cut down in Veteran's Acres near the pond. Terry Dieckhoff stated that he heard that the Park District is trying to restore the area. The Committee discussed how the willow trees were large and looked great in that area. The Committee asked if the Park District could attend a future Committee meeting to provide updates about projects and green initiatives being pursued within the City. Nick Hammonds stated that he would contact someone at the Park District.

Lead Pipes: Emilie Hoffman stated that she recently found out her home has a lead pipe for her water service. Emily Conti discussed the new requirements and phases for all residential lead pipes to be replaced by 2024. She stated that the first phase is inventory, followed by action on replacing the service lines. Emily stated that she would share information with the Committee regarding the requirements.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, Sam Zurawski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Nicky Strahl seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.