

**MINUTES**  
**Sustainability Committee**  
**March 16, 2022**  
**Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

**2. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following committee members: Emilie Hoffman, Lisa Janezic, Terry Dieckhoff, Lisa McLaughlin, Carol Elkins, and Cordell Crane. Members of the public in attendance were Dean Farr and Assistant to the City Manager Nick Hammonds.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Approval of the Minutes from February 16, 2022**

Lisa Janezic moved to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2022 meeting. Terry Dieckhoff seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**5. Dole Farmers Market: Availability and Schedule**

Nick Hammonds began the discussion by asking the Committee for their availability to staff a booth at the Dole Farmer's Market. Lisa Janezic stated that getting a booth in the summer would be the best option since there will be more people in attendance during warm weather. Lisa McLaughlin stated that she is willing to do at least one day at a booth, but she will be out of town mid-summer. Lisa Janezic stated that she can bring a pop up tent for the Committee's booth, which other vendors at the event typically bring a tent.

Emilie Hoffman suggested the Committee staff a booth at a Farmers Market prior to the Bike With Your Neighbor event. The Committee agreed that this is the best option to pursue first. Carol Elkins stated that attending in the spring before the BWYN or in the fall would also work because most people's schedules are busy in the summer.

Cordell Crane inquired about what other vendors or people attend the Farmers Market and have a booth. Lisa Janezic stated that there are craft vendors and food vendors. Lisa McLaughlin discussed the food trucks that are available. Emilie Hoffman stated that there is a vendor who sells and delivers homemade dog food, and that there is a lot of variety with the vendors in addition to food.

Terry Dieckhoff inquired about the timing of the Farmers Markets and when they start going outside. Carol Elkins stated that May is usually when the outside event begins. Carol Elkins stated that she will be joining the McHenry County Conservation District for their peddle, paddle, saddle event. Terry Dieckhoff discussed the event and said it is great for either fishing, biking, or even horse riding. Carol stated that the event is held on the same day as the BWYN, so she will not be able to attend the Committee's event.

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

Nick Hammonds asked the Committee for their feedback on a favorite logo for the program. The Committee members' votes are shown below.

Cordell Crane: Option E

Lisa McLaughlin: Option F

Lisa Janezic: Option A

Carol Elkins: Option A

Emilie Hoffman: Option A

Terry Dieckhoff: Option A

The Committee agreed that Option A appears to be the winner. The Committee discussed modifications to the logo to make sure the year is prominent and the font matches. Cordell Crane inquired if there were any plant based or eco-friendly stickers available. Lisa McLaughlin stated that the Environmental Defenders were unable to find a plant based sticker that worked well. Vinyl would appear to be the only option.

Cordell Crane discussed how the Committee would show tiers in future years with the logo. The Committee discussed various options to highlight the gold, silver, or bronze on the sticker to signify the level that a business has been awarded. The Committee also discussed how the program can develop in the future to include specific questions for businesses in specific industries. This would include question specific to restaurants, retail, manufacturing, etc.

**7. Mayors' Monarch Pledge Review**

Nick Hammonds stated that the City and the Committee will start working toward achieving the 2022 goals in the spring. Nick Hammonds confirmed the City Code will be discussed soon at a City Council meeting to clarify that Milkweed is no longer prohibited.

**8. Bike With Your Neighbor Event: June 12, 2022**

Nick Hammonds stated that the City is planning on having the Bike With Your Neighbor Event on June 12, 2022. He also stated that a Park District representative will be attending the April meeting to discuss the event.

Emilie Hoffman stated that incorporating native plants into the scavenger hunt should be a focus this year, Terry Dieckhoff stated that he will bring the scavenger hunt list for the Committee to review in April. He also stated that not too many people go to Prairie Ridge High School, so the Committee can modify the route to get people to MCC or to go past the rain gardens on the west end of the lake.

Emilie Hoffman discussed the feedback from participants in 2021. She stated that people had asked if the bike courses could direct people past open businesses. The issue being that many businesses are closed on Sunday, which is the day the event is held. The Committee discussed different destinations that could be along the bike routes. Emilie Hoffman discussed how the Committee should contact businesses before the event to gather their input on routing bikers to their location.

Cordell Crane stated that he will send Nick some information regarding the proposed bike exchange/auction portion of the BWYN. He also stated that he will go to Star 105.5 to see if he can

get radio air time to promote the event. Lisa McLaughlin stated that Cordell could try to email the station, however, they may not be quick to respond.

## **9. Open Discussion**

Cordell Crane inquired if businesses in Crystal Lake accept plastic bags for recycling on their own accord, or if this is something that the City is involved with. Nick stated that the businesses accept the bags on their own. Emilie Hoffman stated that there are companies that accept the plastic bags to turn them into the plastic furniture, such as Trex Material. Carol Elkins and Cordell Crane discussed the option to add a question on the Green Business Designation application for businesses that accept plastic bags for recycling. The application would ask if the businesses have coordinated with a place to accept the bags for recycling.

Lisa Janezic asked if anyone on the Committee joined the recent Food Shed Co-op meeting. Lisa McLaughlin stated that she was. Lisa Janezic stated that it appears everything is moving forward. She said they discussed competition with the Woodstock Farmers Market, and that the Food Shed is hoping to be a partner with the Farmers Market instead of competition.

Lisa McLaughlin discussed the Environmental Defenders' annual dinner, which Tom Skilling attended. Carol Elkins stated that Tom Skilling posted on social media about the event and promoted the Environmental Defenders' new website. The Committee also discussed the new logo the Defenders have created.

Lisa McLaughlin discussed the electric vehicle charging station work that will be going in near I-90. Lisa Janezic clarified that the old Motorola facility will be the site, and Cordell Crane confirmed.

Lisa McLaughlin discussed the Green Drinks meetings. She went to her first meeting recently. Terry Dieckhoff stated that he attends the meetings regularly. Carol Elkins stated that she has not gone yet, but would like to attend soon. Terry stated that Duke's hosts the meetings every first Wednesday of the month. The Committee agreed to plan on attending the next meeting scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Emilie Hoffman stated that the Committee should prepare a report to give at an upcoming City Council meeting to show the progress the Committee has made on the Greenest Region Compact initiatives. Emilie also discussed how the Committee should review the GRC items again, now that progress has been made on the items selected a few years ago.

Emilie Hoffman stated that the Committee should prepare a list of businesses that can help residents to develop a native plant garden at their home. Carol Elkins stated that Nicky Strahl had mentioned a few potential businesses.

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

## **11. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Carol Elkins moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Lisa McLaughlin seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.