

**MINUTES**  
**Sustainability Committee**  
**April 20, 2022**  
**Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

**2. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following committee members: Emilie Hoffman, Nicky Strahl, Jen Oliver, Lisa McLaughlin, and Carol Elkins. Members of the public in attendance were Dean Farr, John Kavalunas, Steve Platt, Jeff Miller, and Assistant to the City Manager Nick Hammonds.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

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

Carol Elkins moved to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2022 meeting. Jen Oliver seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**5. Guest: John Kavalunas, Electric Vehicle Presentation**

John Kavalunas provided a presentation covering electric vehicles. He partners with the Climate Reality Project's Chicago chapter to focus on getting more electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure in Illinois. John reviewed the future plans for PACE to move towards an electric fleet for buses. The group has not contacted Metra yet to move the Metra trains toward electric.

John compared the emissions of electric vehicles compared to gas powered vehicles. The price of electric versus gas was discussed, given the recent increase in gas prices. The prices of electric vehicles have now become comparable to gas powered vehicles, along with tax credits that are available for purchasing an electric car, and lower maintenance costs than gas cars. The current tax credit is \$7,500.

John stated that the technology for electric vehicles has rapidly improved in recent years. Batteries are able to get close to 300 miles per charge. He stated that charging an electric vehicle to 80 percent charged helps prolong the life of the battery, and manufacturers suggest not to let the charge go less than 10 percent.

Dean Farr asked about the costs to install a charger at home. John stated that the cost will be roughly \$1,000 depending on the electric available in a garage and the equipment installed. He discussed the permits required for modifying electric in your home and the benefits of installing a charger in your garage when you get an electric car.

John stated that discussions are ongoing to get electric vehicle charging infrastructure along the tollways and highways. There are also bills in the Illinois House that are pending. The bills would require new developments to install or have the infrastructure ready to install electric car chargers based upon the number of housing units. Carol Elkins inquired if there are considerations for electric

vehicle charging stations given the increase in rental units coming to Crystal Lake and the Downtown area.

Jen Oliver discussed hybrid cars as compared to electric. She stated that hybrid cars function in a similar way to electric, where energy is not being used when braking. Jen stated that if you do not have a garage, you can still charge your vehicle outdoors. The technology for electric cars continues to improve related to hot and cold conditions and the effect on the battery life.

Jeff Miller discussed the differences between different electric vehicles on the market and the different charging options available depending on the charging equipment and electric supply. John and Jeff discussed the benefits of charging at night when electric rates are lower. This helps to spread out the use of the electric grid.

Jeff Miller asked if the City is planning to implement an electric fleet for City vehicles. Nick Hammonds stated that the City has received information regarding the possibility of making this move in the future. City staff will evaluate the useful life expectancy of its existing fleet, costs related to installing electric chargers, and potential cost savings in the future, which is common practice for the City in identifying the best long term solutions and cost effective practices for the City.

Nicky Strahl stated that there are issues for people who rent their homes or apartments with having electric vehicles. It is not prudent to install an electric car charger at a property you do not own. She stated that having more public electric vehicle charging opportunities would be an equitable solution to get renters to move toward electric. The Committee discussed how this would be equitable for low income people to get electric vehicles and have opportunities to charge in a public area.

Lisa McLaughlin stated that she recently spoke with the Algonquin Economic Development Manager, who stated that Algonquin will be requiring electric vehicle chargers at new developments. Condominiums and commercial properties will fall under the requirement. Carol Elkins discussed the development in new building standards related to EV. Jen Oliver stated that a 220 volt will be needed and accessible in a garage in order to install an electric charger.

**6. Guest: Kurt Reckamp, Crystal Lake Park District**

Kurt Reckamp was unable to attend the meeting and will be rescheduled for the May meeting to discuss the Bike with Your Neighbor event on June 12, 2022.

**7. Greenest Region Compact**

Emilie Hoffman requested that this item be placed as a priority for discussion at the May meeting. The Committee will review the items completed under the GRC as identified in 2019. The Committee will then prepare a brief presentation to report to the Council about the Committee's progress towards achieving goals outlined under the GRC, which was adopted by the City Council.

**8. Downtown Garden Party: Saturday, May 21, 2022**

Nick Hammonds stated that the Downtown Crystal Lake Association contacted the Committee about attending this year's Garden Party event on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Based upon the feedback of the Committee, Nick will contact the Downtown Association to confirm that the Committee can attend. Additional information will be provided to the Committee prior to the event.

**9. Open Discussion**

Jen Oliver stated that she contacted the Crystal Lake Park District regarding a portion of property near the main Beach parking lot and baseball field. She is looking to discuss the possibility of installing a native garden in an area that is often wet similar to a wetland, but the Park District has been mowing the property. Jen will keep the Committee updated regarding her findings. The Committee also provided feedback on who best to contact at the Park District now that Ann Viger has retired.

Nicky Strahl inquired about any updates on No Mow May. Nick Hammonds will report back to the Committee if this information can be posted as an initiative for residents to partake in.

Emilie Hoffman stated that the Committee can provide information about electric vehicles at the upcoming events.

Carol Elkins inquired if the Committee will be joining the Chamber of Commerce for the Earth Day clean-up event. Nick Hammonds stated that the Committee members are free to join the event.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**11. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Jen Oliver moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Carol Elkins seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.