

MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
May 18, 2022
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

2. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following committee members: Nicky Strahl, Jen Oliver, Lisa Janezic, Terry Dieckhoff, and Carol Elkins. Members of the public in attendance were Amy Olson, Crystal Lake Park District Planning and Development Manager, Steve Platt, and Assistant City Manager Nick Hammonds.

3. Public Comment

Amy Olson, the Manager of Planning and Development for the Crystal Lake Park District was in attendance. The Committee discussed the feedback from Jen Oliver provided at the April 20, 2022 meeting regarding an area of land near the Main Beach parking lot. Amy Olson discussed the area and stated that the area is sometimes wet throughout the year in rainier years. She stated that the area is mowed a few times per year. The Committee discussed the potential for performing open burning of this area or installing native plants, instead of mowing the grass. Amy Olson discussed the “Pollinator Pocket” projects that the Park District is performing at various locations.

4. Approval of the Minutes from April 20, 2022

Carol Elkins moved to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2022 meeting. Terry Dieckhoff seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

Terry Dieckhoff discussed two edits to the minutes from the April 20, 2022 meeting, as recommended by John Kavalunas. Terry Dieckhoff stated that the State of Illinois is also offering a \$4,000 credit, in addition to the \$7,500 federal credit for electric vehicle purchases. Terry Dieckhoff also stated that a new Illinois law will go into effect in July 2022 offering 80% reimbursement for new installation costs of charging stations. The Committee discussed whether this reimbursement is for private installations only, or if public and commercial entities qualify. Nick Hammonds stated that he would look into this and follow up with the Committee.

5. Bike With Your Neighbor Event: Sunday, June 12, 2022

The Committee discussed updates to the tour clues to include native plants and environmental items along the routes. Terry Dieckhoff stated that PR should be removed from the route, since very few people went all the way to the school and it is a very long trip. He stated that Ski and Bike will need to be removed since they are now closed. Terry Dieckhoff stated that instead of recording how many benches are at Centerbury, riders can record how many flower planters are at the flag pole. He stated the same can be done for item 3 at Four Colonies Park.

Carol Elkins and Nicky Strahl discussed the opportunity for riders to recognize the native plants at Three Oaks. Nicky Strahl suggested that a sign be placed to show what native plants are visible or in bloom at the time of the event.

For item 10, Wheel Werks, Terry Dieckhoff stated that he will confirm what color bike will be in the window at the shop. He stated that he was not aware of what plants are along the MCC bike path, but this could be checked on. He also stated that, in the past, the Committee changed which tombstones that riders would recognize at Union Cemetery.

Amy Olson stated that there will be new plants installed at Main Beach, which could be an additional tour clue for event guests. Nick Hammonds stated that he can add this item once we know what plants will be installed. Nicky Strahl stated that indicating locations on the map for drinking fountains or water bottle filling stations would be helpful for riders, especially if the weather is hot.

Items for the Prize Giveaway

Nicky Strahl suggested socks, bike gloves, helmets, bike lights, and bells. Terry Dieckhoff also suggested bike lights. Nicky Strahl stated that she will go to Marvin's Toy Store to see if there are games or items relevant for the giveaway. Carol Elkins stated that she will go to the Green Read to see if there are books that can be used. Terry Dieckhoff stated that he will ask Nick's Pizza if they can provide a free pizza coupon.

Attendance at the Event

Nicky Strahl, Lisa Janezic and Terry Dieckhoff stated that they can attend the event. Carole Elkins has another event she will be attending. Nick Hammonds stated that he will get all the Committee members' availability prior to the event.

6. Greenest Region Compact: Review Completed Initiatives

Emilie Hoffman requested that this item be placed as a priority for discussion at the May meeting. Nick Hammonds stated that he prepared talking points for the Committee to provide a brief presentation to the City Council in the future. Nicky Strahl indicated that she can provide the presentation. Nick Hammonds will provide the draft talking points to the Committee.

7. 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 21st. Carol Elkins stated that she can be at the event at 10:00 a.m. Emilie Hoffman stated that can be there at 10:00 a.m. as well. Carol Elkins inquired about the food scrap composting program offered by Prairieland Disposal/LRS. Nick Hammonds provided a background and stated that a flyer will be available at the event. Nick Hammonds will also send the flyer out to the Committee for review prior to the event.

8. Open Discussion

The Committee discussed availability for attendance at the June 5, 2022 Dole Farmer's Market. Terry Dieckhoff stated that he may be able to attend. Lisa Janezic will be in attendance and will have a pop up tent. Carol Elkins stated that she has the event saved on her calendar. Nicky Strahl will not be able to attend. Nick Hammonds will follow up with each Committee member to get their availability.

Carol Elkins stated that she notices invasive species are growing in front of City Hall and that it would be nice to plant natives and post an educational sign. Nick Hammonds stated that he will follow up with the Public Works Department on the ecological management of this area.

Nicky Strahl discussed the possibility of getting a compost area installed along with the new development at Crystal Lake Avenue and Main Street. She also discussed the potential for the developer to install electric vehicle charging stations. Nick Hammonds stated that the City Council recently approved an update to the City Code regarding electric vehicle chargers and new developments.

Carol Elkins inquired about any updates regarding the proposed MCC development. The new design concept appeared to have a lot of windows and may pose a danger to birds.

Nicky Strahl inquired about any developments with the archery proposal for Three Oaks. Nick Hammonds stated that the master plan review can include the archery component. Amy Olson discussed the potential for archery at Park District locations.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, Terry Dieckhoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Carol Elkins seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.