

**MINUTES**  
**Sustainability Committee**  
**January 25, 2023**  
**Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at Crystal Lake City Hall.

**2. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following committee members: Emilie Hoffman, Jen Oliver, Lisa McLaughlin, and Simon Gibson. Members of the public in attendance were Stephen Platt and Assistant City Manager Nick Hammonds.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

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

Lisa McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2022 meeting. Jen Oliver seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**5. 2023 Goals**

- a. Website Updates**
- b. Sustainable Take-Out Food Containers**
- c. Native Plants and Gardens**
- d. Mayor's Monarch Pledge Action Items**
- e. 2023 Events**

The Committee discussed goals and events for 2023. As has been performed in previous years, the Committee members will review the items listed in the 2016 Greenest Region Compact to select items for the Committee to pursue.

Website:

Emilie Hoffman provided a recap of her experience obtaining a permit and creating a native garden in front of her home in the right-of-way. Jen Oliver inquired about the process and the plants she used, which could be information posted on the City website to help Crystal Lake residents who are interested in installing a native garden in front of their home. Lisa McLaughlin stated that the Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee (WPPC) can be promoted along with the native garden information to assist residents with their projects. Jen Oliver stated that having a listing of all residents in town who have a native garden could be promoted on the website. Simon Gibson stated that this would be a great program to reduce the amount of grass that needs to be mowed and maintained on residential lawns.

Jen Oliver discussed a grant awarded to North Elementary to install a veggie garden at the school. Lisa McLaughlin inquired about potential environmental nights at local schools, similar to the one hosted by Husmann in fall 2019. Nick Hammonds stated that he has not received any contact yet from local

schools about bringing back the event. Jen Oliver and Emilie Hoffman discussed the success of the Husmann environmental night, and that the Committee would be happy to participate again. Previous website items discussed, such as useful maps to highlight where native gardens are located in town, will remain on the Committee's goal list for 2023.

#### Sustainable Take-Out Containers:

Stephen Platt discussed the efforts being taken by Zak Dolezal at Duke's Alehouse. The Committee agreed that, after reviewing the Green Business Designation applications in February, the Committee can ask to have Zak attend a meeting to discuss the efforts underway at Duke's towards sustainability. Emilie Hoffman discussed a new restaurant in town that provides sustainable packaging for take-out orders. The Committee agreed to perform additional research to communicate the importance of biodegradable or reusable packaging for take-out orders.

#### Mayor's Monarch Pledge Action Items:

Nick Hammonds provided the list of action items for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. The Committee will review and propose items to be pursued in 2023. Nick Hammonds stated that Carol Elkins has provided her feedback on the action items list. Once the Committee has reviewed the 2023 pledge will be submitted confirming the action items to be pursued.

#### 2023 Events:

The Bike With Your Neighbor event is tentatively scheduled for June 11, 2023. Kurt Reckamp will attend the February meeting to discuss the event and answer any preparation questions. The Committee will also attend the Johnny Appleseed Festival in September.

Lisa McLaughlin discussed the Green Expo hosted by McHenry County College. The expo is later in 2023, and the Committee can prepare materials to have a booth or presentation.

Emilie Hoffman discussed the possibility of partnering with the Park District. She stated that the Park District offers numerous programs that could relate to the Sustainability Committee's efforts. Nick Hammonds stated that this can be a discussion topic in February when Kurt Reckamp from the Park District attends the meeting.

Simon Gibson discussed the possibility of partnering with the Library to have a display dedicated to environmental sustainability. Having a separate bookshelf would catch the attention of people at the Library and would help kids to learn at a young age.

Lisa McLaughlin discussed how the Committee could setup a booth at the Earth Day clean up hosted by the Chamber. Nick Hammonds will reach out to the Chamber to inquire about the Committee participating in the event.

Additional events may be added as the weather warms up and opportunities arise.

## **6. Open Discussion**

Jen Oliver discussed her new position with the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD). She stated that one of their upcoming projects will be to improve the Stern's Woods bike trail to make it safer. Simon Gibson agreed that safety improvements are needed, as more people have motorized

bikes that go up to 40 miles per hour on the path. Sight line issues create a hazard for people on the trail. Jen Oliver stated that the bike trail work is probably one or two years from implementation. She also stated that MCCD has secured a grant to install an ADA kayak launch at the Hollows.

Jen Oliver inquired about planning a field trip for the Committee to tour the Waste Management facility on Virginia Road. She discussed how there are many items that are not recyclable, including many forms of plastics. Nick Hammonds stated that Waste Management offers tours to the public and he will coordinate a trip in spring.

Lisa McLaughlin stated that she viewed a webinar covering textile recycling. She shared a link that will be provided to the Committee to view. She further discussed the topic and the difficulty of changing the public's shopping habits and mentality when it comes to clothes. Jen Oliver and Simon Gibson agreed, elaborating on the usefulness of old clothes for rags, utilizing hand-me-downs, and the benefit of thrift shops.

Stephen Platt discussed the possibility of working with the Northwest Herald to promote the Committee's initiatives. Nick Hammonds stated that this will require approval, but that the Committee has plenty of items to promote.

**7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Lisa McLaughlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Simon Gibson seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.