

**MINUTES**  
**Sustainability Committee**  
**February 15, 2023**  
**Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at Crystal Lake City Hall.

**2. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following committee members: Emilie Hoffman, Jen Oliver, Lisa McLaughlin, Steve Platt, Amy Olson, and Carol Elkins. Members of the public in attendance were Abby Wilgreen, City Engineer, and Assistant City Manager Nick Hammonds.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Approval of the Minutes from January 25, 2023**

Jen Oliver moved to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2023 meeting. Lisa McLaughlin seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**5. City Staff Presentation of the NPDES Program**

**a. City and Homeowner Actions to Keep Lakes and Rivers Clean**

City Engineer Abby Wilgreen provided a presentation to the Committee highlighting the stormwater projects in Crystal Lake. She discussed the importance of protecting the watershed and the numerous projects that are in progress or have been completed. Abby Wilgreen provided an overview of the operational actions the City takes each year, including the FOG program where the Wastewater Division checks various businesses to prevent oils and grease from building up in sanitary sewer lines.

Abby Wilgreen provided an in depth review of the upcoming project to re-establish Crystal Creek. Steve Platt inquired about any public maps that are available to highlight the stormwater projects. Carol Elkins stated that this would help the City and Committee to communicate these important projects to the community. Jen Oliver stated that the Committee could place a map on the web page highlighting where rain gardens are located in town and their environmental impacts and importance.

Steve Platt asked if City staff would be trained on native plant maintenance. Abby Wilgreen discussed contracts the City has with native area management companies to monitor the rain gardens. She further detailed how commercial properties in the watershed are required to install native gardens depending on the size of their property. The Honda dealership, for example, is in the watershed and was required to create a native garden.

The Committee discussed signage that can be posted at the rain gardens to provide information to the public. The signs would then be shown on the website so that information can be shared to direct people to find the rain gardens and understand their environmental impact. Emilie Hoffman and Amy Olson discussed the Park District's pollinator pockets and how the City's rain gardens can link with the Park District. Amy Olson stated that the Park District has new position solely focused on native plant and area maintenance, and this person could assist with highlighting rain garden locations.

**6. Bike With Your neighbor Event: Sunday, June 11, 2023**

Nick Hammonds stated that the event date is set for the Bike With Your Neighbor event. Kurt Reckamp from the Park District will visit the Committee at an upcoming meeting to finalize the event plans.

Amy Olson began a discussion of the routes that are available for event attendees. Emilie Hoffman suggested that the Committee should simplify the routes. A consensus was found that there are too many routes of differing lengths, and reducing the event to one route would reduce confusion and keep attendees together to encourage people to ‘bike with their neighbor’ during the event.

Amy Olson stated that having one route where all attendees start and finish together would be easier to manage. There could be a photo op at the beginning of the event, a send-off of everyone at once, then letting people finish the route at their own pace. She suggested that the raffle could be removed so that the Committee is not trying to watch for riders as they return. The Committee agreed with this concept and will review the event map to simplify the route.

Carol Elkins and Lisa McLaughlin stated that they will be unable to attend the BWYN in June. The Committee will further discuss the event plan at the next meetings.

**7. 2023 Goals**

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. Nick Hammonds will share the GRC with the group, and although the process is cumbersome, Jen Oliver and Emilie Hoffman stated that the GRC provided the Committee with defined goals to pursue.

**8. 2023 Chairperson Selection**

Nick Hammonds discussed the need for the Committee to select a Chairperson. He outlined the duties of the Chairperson to lead the group during meetings. The Committee will provide a recommendation at the March meeting and select a new Chairperson.

**9. Open Discussion**

The Committee received the applications submitted from local businesses for the 2023 program and will review to award businesses in spring. Emilie Hoffman discussed the Green Business Designation program and how a restaurant category could be added in the future. Lisa McLaughlin stated that she will continue to research restaurants that use organic and reusable take out containers. Emilie Hoffman stated that Sushi-U still provides reusable glass containers. Amy Olson stated that the Committee could contact businesses and provide information regarding alternatives to Styrofoam. Jen Oliver agreed and stated that showing the cost comparison is needed to persuade companies to make the switch.

Emilie Hoffman stated that the Committee could highlight each awarded business each month in the newsletter. This would provide an in-depth look at the efforts of each business, promoting sustainability, and providing an incentive for businesses to become greener because they can get free advertising. Emilie Hoffman inquired about additional ways to highlight and promote the awarded

businesses, either through a proclamation by the Mayor or other ways to make the program more publicly visible. Amy Olson suggested a group photo of each awarded business.

The Committee agreed to ask Zak Dolezal to attend a future meeting. His green efforts, including the composting program for restaurants, would be ideal to highlight at a meeting and on City social media and publications.

Jen Oliver discussed the Committee's planned trip to tour the waste transfer station on Virginia Road. The Committee agreed that March 20<sup>th</sup> would work best. Nick Hammonds will confirm the date and time with the transfer station operator.

**10. Next Meeting**

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

**11. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Carol Elkins moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Amy Olson seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.