

**MINUTES**  
**Sustainability Committee**  
**January 17, 2024**  
**Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at Crystal Lake City Hall by Carol Elkins, seconded by Amy Olson.

**2. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following Committee Members: Jen Oliver, Steven Platt, Emilie Hoffman, Carol Elkins, Amy Olson, Simon Gibson, and Terry Dieckhoff. Members of the public in attendance: Management Analyst Josh Allain and Dean Farr.

Committee Member Lisa McLaughlin was going to be in attendance over the phone, but technical difficulties prevented the Committee from being able to call.

**3. Public Comment**

The Committee discussed a possible Facebook post that was provided by a resident in the City on the topic of winter salting. The Committee agreed with the importance of sharing information on effective and environmentally conscious salting. Simon Gibson reminded the Committee that a cups worth of salt can often times be enough for a side walk.

Dean Farr provided the committee a presentation on aquifers in McHenry County. Dean stated that the community can begin to expect water shortages in McHenry County soon. The importance of refilling aquifers was also discussed. Amy Olson and Dean discussed the importance of water conservation in the community and the impacts this can have on the aquifers. Steven Platt would like information to be presented to the committee on how the City tracks storm water management infrastructure and the amount of permeable land in the City.

**4. Approval of Minutes from the November 15, 2023 Meeting**

Emilie Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes of November 15, 2023 meeting, seconded by Amy Olson. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**5. Mayors Monarch Pledge – Item Selection**

The Committee walked through all of the items that are available to them for the 2024 Mayors Monarch Pledge. The Committee would like to expand on the planting of native milkweed and add more to the current garden in front of City Hall. Amy Olson would like to have the Committee look into the possibility for grants that could be used towards the creation of more monarch gardens. Jen Oliver let Amy know that her organization uses grant funding for some of their initiatives. Amy spoke to the goal of creating art work in the community, and supports the creation of a mural. The Committee has agreed that the program pledge items that involve working with

HOAs would be a great place to begin with. The increasing of overall percentage of native plants in developments was discussed as a possible topic to work with HOAs on. Carol Elkins asked what limitations the City has around imposing restrictions on developers that restrict the planting of invasive species. Amy would like to see what schools have pollinator gardens, and see what the Committee can do to work with these schools. The Committee proposed the idea of changing the native species definition from “species within 50 miles of the City” to “species within the same region of the country”. Dean asked the Committee what can be done about the mowing of bike paths.

**6. Green Businesses Designation Program**

The Committee talked about going to the various businesses in the community who were awarded the Green Business Designation program. Businesses provided dates and times that worked best for them in advance. Committee members can guarantee at least two members will be available at each of the designations.

**7. Strategic Plan Discussion**

Josh Allain presented the concept of beginning the strategic planning process for short term goals. The Committee reviewed an example strategic plan and determined how they can use the example as a model for their strategic plan. Josh explained that the City Council had set out larger goals for the Committee to achieve, but smaller more manageable goals could be an effective way of meeting the large goals. The Committee will begin the process of developing smaller goals that fit under the large categories. These goals should be accomplishable in the near future.

**8. Open Discussion**

No items to discuss.

**9. Next Meeting: February 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

**10. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Carol Elkin moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Jen Oliver.