MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
October 16, 2019
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at the Municipal Complex in Crystal Lake.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following committee members: Chair John Kavalunas, Emilie Hoffman, Terry Dieckhoff, and Nicky Strahl. Members of the public in attendance were Jen Oliver, Joe Scherb, and Nick Hammonds, Management Analyst.

III. Public Comment

Joe Scherb introduced himself as a frequent guest of the Sustainability Committee's meetings. He stated that he has continued to work with John Kavalunas regarding the bicycle friendly initiative. Jen Oliver introduced herself as a recent applicant to the Committee.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from September 18, 2019

Terry Dieckhoff moved to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2019 meeting as amended. Nicky Strahl seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

V. Greenest Region Compact (GRC): Review Priority Objectives, Plastic Bag Objective Discussion, and Complete Streets Discussion

John Kavalunas began the discussion of the GRC by reviewing each priority objective:

-Complete Streets Policy: Greg Glover
-Energy Star certification for Municipal Properties: John Kavalunas and Terry Dieckhoff
-Communication of Sustainability Committee initiatives, actions and goals: Lara Smith
-Promote and support local businesses that practice sustainability: Emilie Hoffman
-Plastic bag bans: Nicky Strahl and Joe Babiarz

John Kavalunas stated that he and Terry Dieckhoff had not yet received a response from Director of Public Works Mike Magnuson regarding Energy Star. Nick Hammonds advised that he will reach out to Mike Magnuson for an update. John Kavalunas stated that Lara Smith is currently working on communication, and the Committee will get an update from her at the November meeting.

John Kavalunas asked if Emilie Hoffman had updates regarding promotion of local businesses. Emilie Hoffman stated that she is looking at other communities and how they have established criteria to determine which businesses are local and/or promote sustainable practices. The Committee discussed how to go about promoting and identifying sustainable businesses. Nicky Strahl stated that a business that promotes

sustainability does not need to be local, such as Aldi, which is a national company that does not use plastic bags.

John Kavalunas discussed the GRC and whether there are additional line items that would help to define the threshold for a sustainable company. Jen Oliver stated that a scorecard to guide the Committee would be beneficial. John Kavalunas stated that Edith Makra is a good contact person to gather more information for this objective. Nicky Strahl stated that Edith was involved with CMAP, which would also be a good reference. Emilie Hoffman stated that she will reach out to Edith. Terry Dieckhoff discussed the possibility of designating businesses with a gold, silver and bronze certification based on minimum standards defined by the Committee.

John Kavalunas began the discussion of the plastic bag objective. Nick Hammonds provided an update from City staff regarding the plastic bag process. John Kavalunas stated that the Committee could still get the ball rolling while Woodstock begins to prepare to implement the tax. Emilie Hoffman asked about the process when people inevitably forget to bring reusable bags to the store. Nicky Strahl agreed that it will take time for the public to become acquainted with the change. John Kavalunas discussed how the Committee could take on the role of promoting to the public where they can find reusable bags. He also discussed how Nicky Strahl and Joe Babiarz could conduct research to determine how the tax is collected and where the funds are allocated.

Joe Scherb discussed the Complete Streets objective and his recent visit to Batavia. Joe Scherb stated that Batavia is a gold level bicycle friendly community, and he went over the initiatives and input from the Batavia mayor over time to achieve the designation. Joe Scherb discussed the positive impact from the mayor's involvement to help Batavia create a pedestrian friendly downtown area. John Kavalunas was in attendance at the Batavia event and discussed how Batavia experienced pushback when initially implementing pedestrian friendly infrastructure, but that they pushed through the pushback and have had positive feedback from the public regarding their efforts. John Kavalunas stated that Batavia still experiences issues with older streets and infrastructure, however, the city makes sure to implement pedestrian friendly infrastructure when old infrastructure is repaired or replaced.

VI. Johnny Appleseed Festival Review

John Kavalunas began the Johnny Appleseed Festival review by asking for the Committee members' feedback. The Committee agreed that the event went well, and having Scott Kuykendall at the festival with his water display was a good attraction. John Kavalunas stated that the coloring books were great for festival goers to come up to the Committee's table. Terry Dieckhoff stated that the promotional give away baskets were also a great attraction. Emilie Hoffman stated that most people were excited about the baskets.

Emilie Hoffman went over the feedback she received from her recycling vs. trash game. Nicky Strahl stated that many people were eating corn on the cob and the Committee could provide large composting bins at next year's event. Terry Dieckhoff agreed and stated that having Prairieland at the festival was a great addition. John Kavalunas discussed ComEd

and how he hopes they can have their own table at the 2020 festival. Emilie Hoffman stated that ComEd will be at the Green Living Expo to promote their eco-friendly work.

VII. Husmann Elementary Environmental Night: November 7, 2019

John Kavalunas stated that the Committee should promote bike maps and the composting guide at the event. He then asked if Scott Hennings can bring a Zagster bike sharing bike to promote the bike share program. Emilie Hoffman stated that the Committee could check out a bike and bring it to the event if we are unable to display a bike for free. John Kavalunas stated that the Committee should bring Bike With Your Neighbor (BWYN) sign-up sheets, maps, and pictures of the event from previous years. He suggested to bring the rain barrel pamphlets as well. Jen Oliver stated that the County is heavily involved with the event and will be at the Environmental Night.

VIII. Bicycle Friendly Community/Bike Shop Application Discussion

John Kavalunas stated that he and Joe Scherb met with the owner of Wheel Werks to discuss the bicycle friendly business designation. John Kavalunas stated that the owner was interested in achieving the designation, but that it is not now currently a priority. Joe Scherb discussed the possibility of forming a "bike triangle" between Wheel Werks, Duke's and the Crystal Lake Brewery. He discussed how the Committee could engage each business to create a bicycle friendly destination.

Joe Scherb discussed a program called bicycle benefits, where businesses produce some form of a benefit for patrons who bike to the business. Joe Scherb stated that Batavia had bike racks in numerous locations. He discussed how the City would benefit from more "share the road' signs and additional bike racks. John Kavalunas discussed the possibility of having the business owners come to City Hall for a special meeting. The Committee will conduct outreach to the business owners to try to schedule a meeting.

IX. Open Discussion

Nicky Strahl asked if the Committee will have table at the Green Expo. John Kavalunas stated that the Committee will not have a table, and he did not want to stretch the Committee too thin with too many commitments.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.

XI. Adjourn

There being no further business, Terry Dieckhoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Nicky Strahl seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.