MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
June 17, 2020
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

2. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following committee members: Chair John Kavalunas, Emilie Hoffman, Jen Oliver, Lara Smith, Nicky Strahl, Joe Babiarz, and Terry Dieckhoff. Members of the public in attendance were Sam Zurawski, Lisa Janezic, Cordell Crane, Dean Farr, and Assistant to the City Manager Nick Hammonds.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments made.

4. Approval of the Minutes from February 19, 2020

Terry Dieckhoff moved to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2020 meeting as amended. John Kavalunas seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

5. Chairperson Selection

Nick Hammonds began the discussion by referring to John Kavalunas to discuss his future involvement with the Committee. John stated that he plans to step aside since there are three new applicants for the Committee, which would allow all three applicants to join. He stated that this is a good time to turn it over and allow new people to serve in the Committee. John then discussed the commitment needed to be chair of the Committee. He stated that he may spend two to three hours outside of the regular meetings on his duties as chair. Nick Hammonds inquired if any members were interested in being chair of the Committee. John Kavalunas stated that a decision could wait until the July meeting to establish a new chair. The Committee agreed to consider the role and make a decision at the July 15 meeting.

6. Sustainability Committee Member Term Selection

Nick Hammonds began the discussion of term selections for Committee members. The Sustainability Committee will be formally adopted via ordinance at the next City Council meeting, and terms will need to be defined for each member. New Committee members would serve for three years, and the current six members had the option to choose a one or two year term. The terms as chosen by the Committee are shown below.

One Year Term (Expires 06/2021)	Two Year Term (Expires 06/2022)	Three Year Term (Expires 06/2023)
Jen Oliver	Terry Dieckhoff	Lisa Janezic
Lara Smith	Joe Babiarz	Samantha Zurawski
Nicky Strahl	Emilie Hoffman	Cordell Crane

7. New Applicant Selection

There being three open positions and three applicants in attendance at the Committee meeting, the Committee agreed to nominate Lisa Janezic, Samantha Zurawski and Cordell Crane for the Mayor and City Council's approval. John Kavalunas stated that he was happy that resigning from the Committee made room for new members and congratulated the new members for joining. Cordell Crane expressed his gratitude for John Kavalunas regarding his decision.

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

Below are the current priority objectives:
-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

The Committee discussed the previous items of focus from the February meeting and how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the Committee's priority objectives. Lisa Janezic discussed how the Committee was planning on conducting a survey regarding plastic bag fees as a next step. Nicky Strahl stated that she does not want to have this objective dropped altogether, but it will need to be put on hold. Businesses have opted to use single-use bags instead of allowing reusable bags in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19. John Kavalunas asked if Woodstock has provided an update on their experiences with plastic bag fees. Nick Hammonds stated that he will reach out to Woodstock again.

Cordell Crane asked if there is a set guideline that is being followed regarding plastic bags and cleaning during the pandemic. Nicky Strahl stated that individual businesses have the option to allow reusable bags or to require single-use only. She stated that she has not seen any businesses allow reusable bags. Nicky discussed how the Center for Disease Control (CDC) offers guidance. John Kavalunas stated that Costco has allowed reusable bags, but customers must bag their own items. Jen Oliver discussed Aldi and their process for reusable bags. John Kavalunas discussed how the world needs to move forward, even if changes need to be made to achieve goals.

9. Anti-Idling for South Elementary

The Committee agreed to keep the anti-idling discussion point on the agenda for July's meeting. Schools have not been in session and it is unclear when schools will reopen.

10. Open Discussion

The Committee discussed plans to send a letter to the Acting Mayor welcoming him as the City's new leader. Dean Farr stated that it would be good to invite the Mayor to a meeting. Jen Oliver stated that she knows the Acting Mayor and he is a good person who will serve well in the role. John Kavalunas stated that Mayor Shepley did a good job of achieving consensus and ran meetings well. Dean Farr stated that he will start a draft letter to send to Nick. Nick will draft a letter and share with the Committee before sending to the Acting Mayor.

Jen Oliver inquired if the Committee has discussed backyard chickens. She stated that there used to be a group that was trying to get chickens to be allowed in Crystal Lake. Nicky Strahl stated that she had heard of discussions at the City Council, but that the idea was turned down. Terry Dieckhoff and John Kavalunas stated that they do not remember discussing backyard chickens at the Committee

level. Cordell Crane stated that he would have no objections to allowing backyard chickens. Jen Oliver stated that some suburbs allow them, and Lara Smith mentioned Wauconda and Island Lake recently approved chickens in residential areas. Nicky Strahl stated that she gets a lot of nuisance calls at her work regarding foxes and raccoons coming after the chickens.

Sam Zurawski asked if there has been progress made on the website updates. Nick Hammonds stated that there have been draft pages made, and that he will share the pages with the Committee for review.

John Kavalunas discussed the Pace Bus Electrification progress. He stated that he has been in contact with a Highland Park Council member. Pace will not be making any purchases for the time being. John stated that Pace is not fully committed to electrification. Highland Park is considering a pilot program for electric buses with the hope that it will expand to the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and to local school districts. John stated that Pace is likely to proceed with the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). He stated that he and his group of eight advocates are pushing to make a case for Pace to move toward electrification. Their goal is to influence future purchasing decisions. John stated that he will share an article regarding electrification for buses for the Committee.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, Jen Oliver moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Terry Dieckhoff seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.