# MINUTES
## Sustainability Committee
## July 15, 2020
## Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

**2. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following committee members: Emilie Hoffman, Lara Smith, Nicky Strahl, and Terry Dieckhoff. Proposed members of the Committee in attendance were Sam Zurawski, Lisa Janezic, and Cordell Crane. Members of the public in attendance were Abby Wilgreen, City Engineer (via phone) and Assistant to the City Manager Nick Hammonds.

**3. Public Comment**

There were no public comments made.

**4. Approval of the Minutes from June 17, 2020**

Nicky Strahl moved to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2020 meeting as amended. Terry Dieckhoff seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**5. Crystal Lake Staff Guest at 7:30 p.m.: Abby Wilgreen, City Engineer**

Nick Hammonds advised the Committee that Abby Wilgreen, City Engineer will join the Committee via conference call at 7:30 p.m. to discuss various engineering related projects and considerations within the City. Abby Wilgreen, City Engineer joined the Committee via conference call at 7:30 p.m. Lisa Janezic thanked Abby Wilgreen for inputting crosswalks at Ackman Road. Abby Wilgreen discussed the Complete Streets policy that was adopted by the City in 2019. She stated that the policy formalized many of the current practices that the City follows. Abby Wilgreen discussed the various efforts the City will take to improve streets depending on feasibility and opportunity. She stated that the City will review roads that are scheduled for resurfacing to verify improvements that can be made while construction is performed. She also stated that larger road reconstruction projects, such as the Main Street and Crystal Lake Avenue work, provide excellent opportunities for the City to re-evaluate bike lanes, pedestrian access and other considerations.

Emilie Hoffman asked how the Sustainability Committee could become more involved. Abby Wilgreen stated that the City appreciates any involvement from the public. She stated that Committee members and anyone from the public can provide input at any time regarding issues or concerns within the City. Abby Wilgreen stated that resident input has been used for everything from simple projects, such as re-striping for a turn lane, to larger projects such as the Ackman Road pedestrian crossing.

Abby Wilgreen discussed the Green Regions grant that the City has received. She stated that the grant will go towards putting in a rain garden by Crystal Lake. The City has also applied for a Green Regions grant through McHenry County for additional projects. Terry Dieckhoff asked about the water level at Three Oaks. Abby Wilgreen discussed the City's engineering evaluations and how the lack of a natural outlet at the lake results in water level fluctuations dependent on evaporation. Cordell Crane

asked if there is natural vegetation that could help with the water level. Nicky Strahl stated that the City follows a natural areas maintenance plan, and due to the lake being a former Quarry there is a limited amount of options for vegetation. She stated that the City is doing as much as possible in this regard.

Abby Wilgreen discussed the Prairie Trail. She stated that the City has conducted evaluations numerous times over the years in an attempt to connect the trail seamlessly from Veteran's Acres to the Trail near Crystal Lake Avenue and Main Street. She also stated that the City has reviewed the Indian Trail connections to try to connect the trail to Walkup, and there is a planned intersection improvement at Route 176 and Main Street that may provide an opportunity to improve pedestrian crossing.

Cordell Crane inquired about the Huntley Road trail that stops before reaching the lake. Abby Wilgreen stated that there have been proposals to connect a path to Bard Road, but that a bike lane would likely need to be located on the road to connect to the lake. She also stated that the City is planning to implement roundabouts on Congress Parkway at the Federal and Exchange intersections. She explained how pedestrian crossing is safer at roundabouts due to the configuration.

**6. Letter to the Acting Mayor**

Nick Hammonds advised the Committee that Acting Mayor Haleblian may join the Committee at the next meeting in August. Nick Hammonds advised the new members that the formal nomination will be presented to the City Council for approval after the Acting Mayor has had a chance to meet the Committee. This will allow the Acting Mayor to meet all new and current members and to showcase the Committee's initiatives.

**7. 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
-Single Use Bag Ordinance: Nicky Strahl and Joe Babiarz

Cordell Crane discussed the plastic bag fee update from the City of Woodstock. He stated that Woodstock began discussions over the course of five years regarding the implementation of plastic bag or single use bag fees. Woodstock initially began the bag fee in January 2020, but has had to put the program on hold until November due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Cordell Crane stated that Woodstock provided feedback regarding the status of the bag fee program and how the fees are collected. He stated that Woodstock indicated some of the difficulties of the program, including pushback from some businesses and the costs associated with distributing reusable bags to the community. The Committee discussed the possibility of pursuing plastic bag fees once the pandemic allows.

Emilie Hoffman discussed the green business initiative. She stated that she attended the Chamber of Commerce luncheon in March and met contacts from the Chamber and other small businesses. Emilie Hoffman stated that the Chamber was interested in the business designation program that the Committee has been discussing. She also stated that Batavia works with their Chamber of Commerce

in a similar capacity. Emilie Hoffman inquired if the Committee could have a member of the Chamber attend a meeting. Nick Hammonds stated that he will look into coordinating this.

**8. Anti-Idling for South Elementary**

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

**9. Open Discussion**

Nick Hammonds provided an update to the Committee regarding the Crystal Lake Electrical Aggregation program. The City Council recently approved the details of the new two-year term, which will include 25 percent renewable energy as part of the City's electrical supply. Nick Hammonds explained how the program functions and that the renewable energy portion of electricity supply will not increase rates for customers.

Lisa Janezic inquired if the Committee has heard of the Food Shed Co-op. She stated that it is a community owned grocery store that sells local organic food. She also stated that the Co-op organization has been looking for a space in Crystal Lake to start a chapter in the City. Cordell Crane asked if the Co-op is similar to the Farmer's Market. Terry Dieckhoff and Lara Smith stated that the Co-op operates as a food store, but offers locally grown food. Lara Smith stated that she signed up as a member hoping to assist the organization with reducing their use of plastic bag packaging. Sam Zurawski discussed the possibility of the City helping the Co-op to find a space within Crystal Lake. Nick Hammonds stated that the City's Economic Development team works with businesses to fill vacant locations, and they could be contacted to evaluate locations for the Co-op depending on zoning and available space.

Sam Zurawski asked if the Sustainability Committee has its own budget. Nick Hammonds stated that the Committee is provided with a small budget to help with promotional materials for events. However, since the Committee is volunteer based, the focus is more on coordinating with local organizations and for offering eco-friendly initiatives for the City to consider.

Sam Zurawski began a discussion of the City's Sustainability Committee website. She stated that the web page could expand from the current background information for the Committee to being more interactive. Sam Zurawski inquired if there could be a question tool that allows residents to submit environmentally related questions, suggestions, or issues online. Nick Hammonds stated that it may be possible to create a question function through the City's current citizen support center for residents to submit environmental and sustainable information and questions.

Emilie Hoffman asked if the Committee should focus on solving problems or focus on facilitating connections between residents and organizations within the City. Lara Smith stated that the Committee can assist with getting people together, hosting events, and facilitating hands on volunteer opportunities. Cordell Crane discussed the Park District as being a resource for coordinating volunteer events and opportunities. Lisa Janezic asked if the schools hold volunteer events, such as building rain gardens. Nick Hammonds discussed the Husmann Environmental Night and how the Committee plans to partner with the schools whenever an opportunity arises.

Emilie Hoffman inquired if the Johnny Appleseed Festival will be held this year. Nick Hammonds stated that it is unlikely to occur due to the pandemic.

Chairperson Selection
Nick Hammonds began the discussion of the new Chairperson selection. Cordell Crane and Sam Zurawski expressed interest in serving as the Chair of the Committee. Sam Zurawski, on voice vote with all voting aye, was selected as the new Chair of the Committee for the next one year period. Cordell Crane stated that he could serve as Assistant Chair in case Sam Zurawski is unable to attend a meeting. Upon voice vote, all voted aye for Cordell Crane to serve as Assistant Chair of the Committee.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**11. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Cordell Crane moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Sam Zurawski seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.