# MINUTES
## Sustainability Committee
## January 19, 2022
## Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

**2. Roll Call/Attendance**

Present were the following committee members: Emilie Hoffman, Lisa Janezic, Terry Dieckhoff, Cordell Crane, and Lisa McLaughlin. Members of the public in attendance were Carol Elkins, Stephen Platt, and Assistant to the City Manager Nick Hammonds.

**3. Public Comment**

Carol Elkins and Stephen Platt were in attendance for the meeting.

**4. Approval of the Minutes from December 15, 2021**

Emilie Hoffman moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2021 meeting. Cordell Crane seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**5. 2022 Events and Guest Speakers**

The Committee discussed guest speakers that could attend a Committee meeting in 2022. Nick Hammonds stated that Kurt Reckamp from the Park District usually visits the Committee in spring to discuss plans for the Bike With Your Neighbor event in June. Cordell Crane discussed the possibility of having a bike exchange with the BWYN event. Nick Hammonds stated that he will discuss this with Kurt when scheduling his visit to the Committee.

Steve Platt stated that Jeff Miller is a good contact to discuss electric cars at an upcoming Sustainability Committee meeting. Steve stated that Jeff Miller may have funding options and grants available for the City related to EV charging stations. He may also have insight for potential EV charging sites in the future. Nick Hammonds stated that John Kavalunas asked to provide a presentation to the Committee regarding electric vehicles and plans to visit the Committee in March.

Steve discussed the possibility of having fully green electric vehicle charging stations by including solar panels to supply the stations. Lisa McLaughlin agreed that having a singular solar panel above each charging station would help toward the sustainable goal of the stations. Steve Platt stated that the charging stations can also be used for educating the public.

Cordell Crane inquired if the Committee can be involved with sharing emergency preparedness for the community. He stated that emergency preparedness coincides with sustainability by sustaining a community through a disaster. Cordell proposed a day City-wide where businesses and residents are reminded to practice their emergency action plan.

Lisa McLaughlin stated that the Committee should have someone present at a future meeting about solar. Among the topics discussed, the Committee would prefer for the speaker to provide information

about solar for residential homes and potential downsides to that homeowners should be aware of. Terry Dieckhoff stated that there are potential issues with leasing solar panels instead of purchasing them outright. Specifically, a resident who moves could experience issues with leased panels. Terry Dieckhoff also discussed how the Illinois Solar Association lists all certified installers, and posting this information on the City website would be beneficial to those interested in getting solar.

Cordell Crane discussed the involvement of ComEd with solar panels. He stated that having educational opportunities to learn about solar and general concepts would help to direct residents to the correct path. Terry Dieckhoff stated that McHenry County College (MCC) offers an open house once per year to provide education about solar panels and electric vehicle charging stations. He said that the open house has not been scheduled yet for 2022.

Carol Elkins inquired if someone from MCC could attend a meeting. The Committee discussed Kim Hankins as a potential guest since she has been involved with the Committee in the past. Lisa McLaughlin stated that the Green Expo at MCC provides useful information and Kim Hankins could relay that information to the Committee.

The Committee discussed additional potential guests for future Committee meetings. Nick Hammonds will reach out to Scott Hennings to provide an update regarding McHenry County projects and initiatives. City Engineering staff will also be contacted for their availability to discuss City projects.

**6. Greenest Region Compact (GRC): Green Business Designation Program**

Nick Hammonds stated that the GBD application is open and one business has submitted an application. Another article appeared in the January newsletter to help promote the program. Nick Hammonds stated that Duke's plans to submit an application.

Lisa McLaughlin discussed businesses that may be interested in applying, including the Green Read, Pique Technologies, Aroma Coffee, and Conscious Cup. Lisa McLaughlin stated that she will provide the contact emails for the businesses. Lisa also stated that the Chamber of Commerce can assist with highlighting the businesses that receive the recognition. The Committee discussed how Cynthia Kanner is involved with operating the Green Read, and that the Environmental Defenders have a list of sustainable businesses they could provide.

Carol Elkins inquired about the background of the Green Business Program. Emilie Hoffman stated that the City based the program on the Batavia Green Business Program to promote sustainable practices in use at local businesses. Emilie Hoffman discussed how the Greenest Region Compact listed the program as a potential goal for communities to pursue.

**7. Mayors Monarch Pledge Review**

Stephen Platt discussed the Mayor's Monarch Pledge website and how every town has their profile shown. Stephen Platt congratulated the City on providing content on the National Wildlife Federation page for the Monarch Pledge program.

**8. Open Discussion**

Emilie Hoffman stated that there is a program called Live Monarch where a person can mail them a postcard and the organization will mail information to the person with a seed packet. The Committee

discussed how this would make for a great social media post and can be tied in with the Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee. Carol Elkins cautioned that the Committee should provide clarification of the different types of milkweed in case the program provides low quality milkweed seeds.

Carol Elkins discussed the use of Styrofoam and single use products for takeout orders at restaurants. Lisa McLaughlin stated that the owner of the Chick-fil-A franchise in Crystal Lake has been making efforts to use sustainable products.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**10. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Cordell Crane moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Lisa Janezic seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.