MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
June 15, 2022
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at City Hall in Crystal Lake.

2. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following committee members: Lisa Janezic, Terry Dieckhoff, Carol Elkins, Lisa McLaughlin, and Cordell Crane. Members of the public in attendance were Amy Olson, Crystal Lake Park District Planning and Development Manager, and Assistant City Manager Nick Hammonds.

3. Public Comment

Amy Olson, the Manager of Planning and Development for the Crystal Lake Park District was in attendance.

4. Approval of the Minutes from May 18, 2022

Carol Elkins moved to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2022 meeting. Terry Diekhoff seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

5. Bike With Your Neighbor Event Review

The Committee discussed the recent Bike With Your Neighbor event. Lisa McLaughlin stated that she rode in the event with her family and had a good time. The only confusing part was the online registration. Nick Hammonds stated that the Committee and Park District attempted to start online registration in previous years, but online registration has not worked well. Lisa McLaughlin stated that the ride took the full two hours, and her family split up to get more of the clues.

The Committee discussed the route and clues for the event. Cordell Crane stated that he did not see anyone that went to MCC. Lisa McLaughlin said that the Crystal Lake South High School clue was more difficult to find. Nick Hammonds stated that he will note this feedback for the Committee to discuss prior to the 2023 event.

The Committee discussed their availability to attend more events during the summer. The Committee agreed to wait until the fall, due to summer schedules and vacations.

Lisa Janezic started a discussion of the Dole Farmers Market. She said that there were a lot of attendees and the foot traffic in front of the Committee booth was high. Carol Elkins stated that the Downtown event is more like a farmers market, whereas the Dole is more like a craft fair.

6. Open Discussion

Cordell Crane inquired about where the City directs residents to purchase rain barrels. Nick Hammonds stated that currently the City refers people to Home Depot or Menards. Carol Elkins stated that the Land Conservancy has rain barrels and they assist with setting the barrel up correctly. She stated this would also help a nonprofit instead of directing people to larger stores. Terry Dieckhoff

agreed that department stores may not have lids that come off, and the Land Conservancy would be a great resource.

Amy Olsen discussed the pollinator pocket program that the Park District is running. A pollinator pocket was installed in front of the Nature Center. Amy Olsen also discussed Veteran Acres, stating that Hey and Associates has been contracted to maintain the area and bring back the native features.

Carol Elkins discussed how the Park District has now signed on for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. She stated that McHenry County now has 13 signatories.

Cordell Crane inquired if the City has any potential projects for Eagle Scouts. Amy Olsen said the Park District has a lot of projects that would work well for an Eagle Scout project.

Carol Elkins asked if Scott Kuykendall, with McHenry County, has visited the Sustainability Committee. The Committee discussed Scott's recent visit where he provided a presentation on water conservation and related environmental awareness. Cordell Crane stated that Scott Kuykendall should also get in contact with businesses.

Carol Elkins discussed the pear trees and other invasive species present at Three Oaks along the bike pedestrian paths. She stated that removing the pear trees would qualify as a completed action item for the Mayors Monarch Pledge.

The Committee discussed updates for the Green Business Program. Carol Elkins suggested looping in local nurseries and having a separate section for those businesses. Lisa McLaughlin discussed how sensible salting could even be a focus for all businesses. This could include using beet juice instead of salt, or another safer alternative.

Lisa McLaughin discussed a mixer at Countryside Flower Shop on July 8th.

Carol Elkins stated that the deadline to sign up for the Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee's fall native plant program is August 1, 2022.

Cordell Crane discussed safety preparation and asked whether the Committee could include emergency preparedness as a focus of the Committee. He said that providing more emergency preparedness awareness to citizens is a sustainable initiative. Nick Hammonds stated that he would inquire with the City's Fire Rescue Department about this proposal. Lisa Janezic suggested that the Committee could tie in climate change with the disaster preparedness.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Cordell Crane moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Terry Dieckhoff seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.