MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
March 20, 2024,
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at Crystal Lake City Hall by Carol Elkins, seconded by Amy Olson.

2. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following Committee members: Amy Olson, Steven Platt, Simon Gibson, Carol Elkins, and Emilie Hoffman. Members of the public in attendance: Management Analyst Josh Allain, Dean Farr, and Vignesh Tiruvannamalai.

3. Public Comment

Vignesh Tiruvannamalai walked the Committee through a recent project he had worked on with his school regarding sustainability. Vignesh found that interactive components ended up receiving the highest engagement with his fellow school mates.

Dean Farr informed the Committee that he has a friend looking to establish a pollinator garden. He would like to see the City look into grants that help people establish pollinator gardens. Amy Olson informed the Committee that the Parks District recently received a grant through Com-Ed to establish pollinator gardens. The Committee would like to see the City begin to make City owned properties more environmentally sustainable.

4. Approval of Minutes from the February 17, 2024 Meeting

Carol Elkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17 meeting, seconded by Simon Gibson. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

5. Litter Clean Up Initiatives

A. School Partner Litter Collection Programs

Committee members agreed that partnering with other organizations in the community could be an effective way to accomplish litter cleaning initiatives. Examples of organizations mentioned were the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, Rotary Clubs, and The McHenry County Conservation Program. Amy Olson would like to wait on program implementation until schools are available. Committee members discussed the best options for what a community wide clean-up effort would look like. Suggestions included narrowing target areas to smaller areas, the introduction of team leaders at specific sites throughout the City, or covering large areas in smaller groups. More information may be needed to determine high litter producing areas. Dean Farr suggested targeting near commercial areas. Steven Platt proposed possibly getting businesses involved in the program as well.

Discussions were also held on the idea of introducing anti-litter signs throughout the community. Amy would like to see the City partner with school districts to design these signs. Emilie Hoffman

would like to look into a competition between schools regarding the collection of litter. Steven asked Vignesh Tiruvannamalai what his thoughts were on engaging high school aged kids to participate in events like this. Vignesh supported the program and believed high school aged students would be great to partner with.

6. Strategic Plan Discussion

A. Mission Statement

Amy Olson and Carol Elkins prepared possible Mission Statements for the Sustainability Strategic Plan. The Committee members who were present, as well as those who were not in attendance, did not present mission statements for the Committee. Josh Allain informed the Committee that Carol and Amy's mission statements will be used to design the Committee's statements. Any other suggestions were asked to be proposed in the meantime.

7. Bike With Your Neighbor Event

Following cancellation for the Bike With Your Neighbor Event in the year prior, difficulties around event implementation this year, and a shift in focus on to a litter cleanup program; the Committee has agreed to not hold the Bike With Your Neighbor Event this year.

8. Downtown Garden Party

The Committee would like to continue to go to the event and host a table. Possible table attractions include coloring opportunities for kids, as well as possible giving away butterfly weed plants. Committee members considered possibly giving seeds or giving away full plants. It was agreed that budget restrictions would be the limiting factor in this decision.

9. Open Discussion

No items to discuss.

10. Next Meeting: April 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, Amy Olson moved to adjourn at 8:04 p.m., seconded by Carol Elkins.