AGENDA

CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

July 17, 2024, 6:30 P.M.
City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call/Attendance**

3. **Public Comment**

4. **Approval of Minutes from the May 15, 2024 Meeting**

5. **Litter Clean Up Initiatives**
   - **A. Focus Areas**

6. **Strategic Plan Discussion**
   - **A. Form Review**

7. **Mayors Monarch Pledge**
   - **A. Action Item Review**

8. **Open Discussion**

9. **Next Meeting: August 21, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

10. **Adjourn**

If assistance is needed in order to participate in a City of Crystal Lake public meeting, please contact Ryan Oates, Assistant to the City Manager, at (815) 356-3687, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, if possible, to make arrangements.

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
May 15, 2024,
City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at Crystal Lake City Hall by Carol Elkins.

2. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following Committee members: Amy Olson, Terry Dieckhoff, Steven Platt, Carol Elkins, and Emilie Hoffman. Members of the public in attendance: Deputy City Manager Nick Hammonds.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

4. Approval of Minutes from the March 20, 2024 Meeting

Amy Olson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2024 Sustainability Committee meeting. Terry Dieckhoff seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

5. Litter Clean Up Initiatives

A. School Partner Litter Collection Programs

The Committee reviewed the status of the litter collection initiative and emphasized the need to complete the objectives of placing signs and trash cans in strategic areas. Carol Elkins stated that the Committee focused on Central and South High Schools for the placement of cans and signage. The Committee agreed that the area of Walkup Road heading north to the Downtown area would be the ideal location for a can and signage. In addition, Terry Dieckhoff stated that the corner near Tony's Café by South High School would be an ideal location. Amy Olson and Emilie Hoffman discussed potential phrasing on the signs, including "Be Green, Keep Your Neighborhood Clean."

6. Strategic Plan Discussion

A. Mission Statement

Amy Olson reviewed her proposed strategic plan vision statement. Steve Platt stated that he thinks the statement about future generations is powerful. Emilie Hoffman stated that she also included a statement regarding future generations in her proposed vision statement. Amy Olson said she thinks the statement should be broad, covering today, tomorrow, and for the good of the community.

Carol Elkins discussed how the strategic plan should state what the Committee is currently working on, including the Green Business Designation, the litter clean up initiative, and the Mayor Monarch Pledge. Amy Olson agreed, and stated that the plan could state how the Committee is supporting green practices in the business community. Emilie Hoffman inquired if the Committee should be

specific or more broad regarding goals. She proposed that the message include the promotion of native plants and sustainable habitats. Amy Olson added promoting sustainability through a cleaner environment, clean neighborhoods, clean streets, and clean water. Steve Platt agreed that the statement should cover all aspects of sustainable needs, including air, land, and water.

Carol Elkins discussed the need to contact Homeowner's Associations to engage them in more sustainable practices, including the installation of native gardens to reduce the need for landscaping maintenance. She proposed that the Committee generate social media posts to highlight the locations of litter collection areas.

Carol Elkins further discussed whether City ordinance can be modified to require certain percentages of green space or pollinators and rain gardens in new developments. The Committee engaged in a discussion of the new developments in town, impacts on traffic, loss of green space, and the impact to the environment. Carol Elkins stated that tree ordinances are important to ensure that the trees removed for developments are replaced with new plantings.

Amy Olson led the Committee through a review of each action item from the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. The City website and social media has been used to launch or maintain public communication. The Committee is working on engaging with local gardening groups and homeowner's associations to encourage the planting of natives.

Amy Olson discussed the monarch event hosted at Main Beach in August. Carol Elkins stated that she already has a booth for the event, and the event has been well attended. Steve Platt also discussed the Environmental Defenders event on June 18, 2024 for pollinator week. Amy Olson proposed that the Sustainability Committee meeting schedule for June 19th may need to be cancelled if the Committee members plan to attend the June 18th event. Carol Elkins stated that the intent of the event is to engage the local mayors who have signed the Mayor's Monarch pledge.

7. Open Discussion

No items presented.

8. Next Meeting: June 19, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, Carol Elkins moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Amy Olson seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, all voted aye. Meeting adjourned.

Sustainability Committee
Agenda Supplement

Meeting Date: July 17, 2024

Item: Sustainability Committee – Litter Clean Up Initiatives

Recommendation: Discussion Only

Contact: Nick Hammonds, Deputy City Manager

Background:

The Sustainability Committee has developed a litter clean up initiative to address litter accumulation areas in Crystal Lake. Potential litter clean-up program initiatives include collection events, identifying areas for the placement of signage and additional trash bins, and involving local community groups and schools.

Discussion:

The Sustainability Committee has proposed locations to address litter collection needs in Crystal Lake. The first garbage can and sign has been placed at the intersection of Dartmoor Drive and McHenry Avenue. Two more cans and signs are currently on order, and additional locations will be added to the program throughout the year.



Following the can and sign placement, the next steps include updates to the website and providing information to the public to spread awareness of the litter collection campaign.

Votes Required to Pass:

No Vote Required

Sustainability Committee
Agenda Supplement

Meeting Date: July 17, 2024

Item: Sustainability Committee – Strategic Plan

Recommendation: Discussion Only

Contact: Nick Hammonds, Deputy City Manager

Background:
The Sustainability Committee has taken the initiative to draft a strategic plan outlining the vision and goals of the Sustainability Committee.

Discussion:
The Sustainability Committee has drafted a Mission Statement for the strategic plan. The next step will be to identify strategies and objectives to accomplish the goals of the Sustainability Committee. Each Committee member will have the opportunity to recommend objectives for the Committee's review at a future meeting.

Votes Required to Pass:
No Vote Required

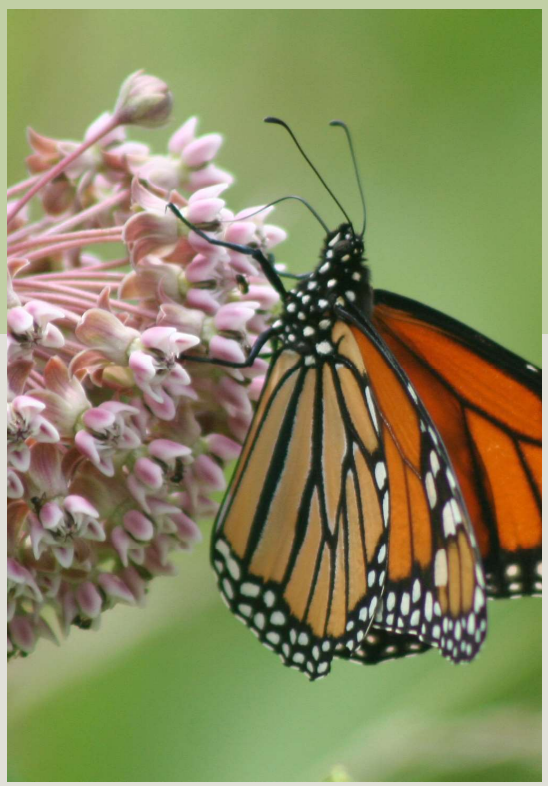
Sustainability Committee
City of Crystal Lake

STRATEGIC PLAN

- 2024 -

MISSION

“A GROUP OF PASSIONATE ACTIVISTS AND VOLUNTEERS PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY.”



The purpose of the Sustainability Committee is to broadly assist the City of Crystal Lake with promoting and achieving environmental sustainability initiatives, while continuing the efforts established through the former Clean Air Counts Advisory Committee.

By collaborating with local environmental groups, stakeholders, and business owners, we strive to promote the use of environmentally sustainable practices and promote healthy and sustainable living and working environments through the development of community-wide eco-friendly initiatives.

Sustainability Committee

City of Crystal Lake

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Objective #1: Protection and expansion of native plants and native habitat.

With the support of the Sustainability Committee, the City of Crystal Lake accepted the Mayor's Monarch Pledge in 2021. The City has pursued action items each year to fulfill the Mayor's pledge and improve native pollinator habitat in the community. Action items include:

- Hosting seed giveaways to increase the amount of pollinator friendly plants in the community.
- Encouraging local gardening groups and homeowner's associations to adopt pollinator friendly landscaping practices.
- Updating City Codes as needed to reflect best practices for pollinators and invasive species management.
- Maintaining a public communication campaign using the City's website, social media, and newsletter to encourage residents to plant pollinator gardens at their homes and in their neighborhoods.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Objective #2: Litter Collection.

Protecting sensitive environmental areas and the community at-large is achieved through focused litter collection efforts. The Sustainability Committee is focused on spreading awareness of the importance of litter collection and providing the means for the public to dispose of litter by increasing the amount of litter collection bins. The Sustainability Committee will achieve this goal by pursuing the following:

- Website updates showing a map of litter collection zones and where to find a trash bin.
- Posting signs in litter collection areas to direct the public to the location of disposal bins.
- Identifying sensitive environmental areas, such as rain gardens, and proving signage and public communication regarding the importance of litter collection to protect these areas.
- Engaging with local groups to identify problematic litter areas and providing the means for litter collection,

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Objective #3: Promoting Eco-Friendly Practices to Sustain the Air, Water, and Land in the Community.

The City of Crystal Lake relies upon critical resources such as ground water, clean air, and natural open areas. Spreading awareness and providing resources to the community to protect critical resources is vital to the long-term sustainability of Crystal Lake. The Sustainability Committee will achieve this goal by pursuing the following:

- Protecting the air by encouraging anti-idling in strategic areas and reducing the use of harmful chemicals such as VOCs, fertilizers, sealcoatings, and bug sprays.
- Spreading awareness of the importance of water conservation efforts to protect the City's groundwater supply. The Committee is focused on promoting the use of rain barrels to utilize natural rain water for lawn maintenance.
- Promoting the planting of native plants and pollinators in place of turf grass areas.
- Encouraging community members to conduct energy audits to identify ways to preserve electricity by switching to LED light bulbs, utilizing solar and wind energy, utilizing geothermal heating and cooling systems, and switching to electric appliances.

Sustainability Committee
Agenda Supplement

Meeting Date: July 17, 2024

Item: Sustainability Committee – Mayors' Monarch Pledge Action Items Review

Recommendation: Discussion Only

Contact: Nick Hammonds, Deputy City Manager

Background:
Mayor Haig Haleblian accepted the Mayors' Monarch Pledge again in 2024 and the Sustainability Committee has identified action items to pursue.

Discussion:
The following action items were selected for 2024. The Committee will routinely review the status of each action item. City staff will submit the end-of-year action item report on the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge website.

1. Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods.

2. Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

3. Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations, or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

4. Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway, or swap.

5. Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in community gardens.

6. Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs, and trees that must be used in City landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

7. Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar-producing plants at City properties.

Votes Required to Pass:
No Vote Required