

1 APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
2 SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
3 VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
4 MARCH 16, 2023
5

6 Chairman Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the Village Hall, Terrace
7 Room. Present were Members Rod Burton, Aaron Stash, Ethan Stepen, Ying Wang, Sandra
8 Weiss
9

10 **Also Present:** Sustainability Coordinator Tessa Murray; Director of Development & Planning
11 Services Michaela Kohlstedt
12

13 **Absent:** Sandra Dold, Becky Lee
14

15 **Guests:** Jill Franklin, Shital Pandit, Kelly Durov, Theodore Metellus
16

17 **Review and Approval of Minutes**

18 A motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Stash to approve the
19 February 28, 2023 draft Sustainability Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed by
20 voice vote.
21

22 **Hear from the Audience**

23 Two email comments were received. One was in favor of gas-powered leaf blower
24 restrictions and the other suggested using sustainability funds for bicycle safety.
25

26 **Community Planning Report**

27 The Village is looking to hire a Sustainability Intern for the summer. This is a paid internship.
28

29 **Community Moments**

30 Liaison Murray stated that the Community Moment presentations take place near the
31 beginning of the Board of Trustees regular meetings which are held every other Tuesday at
32 7:30PM. Presentations should last not more than five minutes.
33

34 The Sustainability Committee needs topic ideas and volunteer speakers for four dates, June
35 27, July 25, August 22, and September 26, 2023 to present the Community Moment.
36

37 It was decided that the following presenters and topics will occur:
38

39 April 25, Chairman Reynolds – Arbor Day
40 May 23, Member Lee – Invasive Species
41 June 27, Member Weiss – Energy
42 July 25, Member Wang – Water Conservation
43 August 22, Member Stash – Electric Vehicles and Engine Idling
44 September 26, Chairman Reynolds – Electric Vehicles and Engine Idling
45

1 **2023 Earth Month Events**

2 Earth Month Kickoff will begin on Saturday, April 1 with a Workday at Somme Woods from
3 9 a.m.-noon. Registration is required in advance if it is your first time in attendance.
4 An Earth Day Recycling Event is planned for Saturday, April 22 at the West Metra Commuter
5 Lot from 9 a.m.- noon.

6

7 An Arbor Day Seedling Giveaway is Friday, April 28 from 3-5 p.m at Village Hall. Native tree
8 seedlings will be handed out.

9

10 An Earth Month Workday will be held on Sunday, April 30th at Techny Prairie Park & Fields
11 from 1-2:30 p.m. Native plants and pollinators will be discussed at the Trail through Time.
12 Registration is required.

13

14 Member Stash inquired why the Village is not hosting an Earth Day vendor fair as was done
15 annually pre-pandemic. Director Kohlstedt answered that it took a lot of staff effort and was
16 not completely environmentally friendly due to vendors giving away single-use plastic items.
17 An online Earth Day platform exists on the Village website. There is no longer a community-
18 wide clean up event as there is liability.

19

20 Ms. Durov stated that the Library is partnering with Friends of the Chicago River. The Library
21 will offer kits that contain grabbers, buckets, gloves etc. to help clean the river. Kits will be
22 available for pick up at the Library.

23

24 Director Kohlstedt stated that if the Sustainability Commission is eager to put on an Earth
25 Day Event, membership could begin to plan for next year with more emphasis placed on
26 sustainable action. Director Kohlstedt reminded the Commission that if they wish to hold an
27 Earth Day Event, they should be mindful of beginning planning throughout the year. The
28 topic can be set as a Sustainability Commission agenda item for October.

29

30 She suggests the Commission participate in tabling at the Flamingo Friday event on May 12,
31 plus the Northbrook Farmers Market on June 21 and October 4. Next year's sustainability
32 budget has already been set. No money was set aside for a large Earth Day event.

33

34 The Green Business Program is scheduled to launch at the April 25, 2023 Village Board
35 Meeting. It will promote businesses that have been participating.

36

37 **Updates on Other Items**

38 a) Communication Initiatives & Messaging

39

40 The following posts were presented: 1) a communications post for severe weather
41 preparedness; 2) e-news promoting the community solar program; 3) e-news notification
42 about the single-use bag tax; 4) the Somme Preserves restoration event on April 1st.

43

44 b) Solar Permit Data

45 Three solar energy permits were issued in February 2023.

46

47 c) Recycling & Waste Data

1 Ms. Murray stated that she has been receiving Waste Management reports for 2023. So far,
2 2023 waste numbers are higher than our previous averages. Recycling is lower than the
3 average. Compost is in line for average years.

4

5 **Old Business**

6 Staff received direction from the Village Board to draft an ordinance with the Gas-Powered
7 Leaf Blower Regulations Working Group recommendation for a nine month ban beginning in
8 2025. The Board asked for a robust implementation plan and for incentives for
9 reimbursement for small businesses. The Board took the Sustainability Commission
10 recommendations to heart. The topic is now at the Board level. The Board agreed with the
11 Sustainability Commission that there should not be exemptions for the Park District. The
12 Board wants language included that states a landscape provider can plug in an electric
13 blower on someone's home exterior electrical outlet. The Board wants a review process for
14 technical advancement after three years included in ordinance language.

15

16 Member Weiss shared information on a new ordinance in Evanston that prohibits gas
17 powered leaf blowers. An Entrepreneur Program was started by the City of Evanston. The
18 program provides different levels of support for local businesses. \$3,000 grants are offered
19 to businesses located and registered in Evanston. Member Weiss feels that it makes sense
20 to make grants for Northbrook-based businesses.

21

22 **New Business**

23 Member Stash asked if the Commission will discuss new Climate Action Plan (CAP) priority
24 items at the next meeting. Ms. Murray answered that the topic will be on the Sustainability
25 Commission's April agenda.

26

27 Director Kohlstedt stated that the Zoning Code update process begins next month. The
28 Zoning Code has not been updated since the late 1980s.

29

30 **Remarks for the Good of the Order**

31 None

32

33 **Next Scheduled Meeting**

34 The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for Thursday, April
35 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

36

37 **Adjourn**

38 A motion was made by Chairman Reynolds and seconded by Member Stash at 6:31 p.m. to
39 adjourn the Sustainability Commission March 2023 meeting. The motion passed by voice
40 vote.

41

42 Respectfully submitted,
43 /s/ Sue Anetsberger
44 Recorder