

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
APRIL 20, 2023

Chairman Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the Village Hall, Terrace Room. Present were Members Sandra Dold, Becky Lee, Aaron Stash, Ethan Stepen, Sandra Weiss

Also Present: Sustainability Coordinator Liaison Tessa Murray; Director of Development & Planning Services Jonathan Mendel

Absent: Rod Burton, Ying Wang

Guests: Jill Franklin, Kelly Durov

Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Chairman Reynolds and seconded by Member Stash to approve the March 16, 2023 draft Sustainability Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed by voice vote.

Jonathan Mendel introduced himself as the new Director of Development & Planning Services for the Village of Northbrook.

Hear from the Audience

An email invitation was received from Go Green Northbrook for a tour of the Waste Management facilities in Romeoville on Thursday, April 27, 2023. Time is to be determined. RSVP to John Albrecht if interested. Members Dold and Lee are interested in attending.

The Library will host a program titled Garden Design for Beauty & Sustainability on Tuesday, April 25, 7-8 p.m. Please register to attend.

Community Planning Report

Ms. Murray reported on the following:

Flamingo Friday Kickoff will take place on Friday, May 12 from 5-7 p.m. at the Village Hall back parking lot. There will be food, giveaways, and a sustainability game for the kids. Two commissioners are requested to help out. Members Stash and Weiss will attend.

Slow Mow May has been approved by the Board. Signs are available for everyone who registers to participate.

An Earth Day Recycling Event is planned for Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the West Metra Commuter Lot. There will be dumpsters for single stream recycling.

1 An Arbor Day Seedling Giveaway is planned for Friday, April 28, 3-5 p.m. behind the Village
2 Hall.

3
4 A final Earth Day event is planned at the Techny Prairie Trail Through Times on Saturday,
5 April 30 at 1pm.

6
7 Member Lee stated that light bulbs should not be encased in their packaging for recycling.

8
9 **2023-2024 Climate Action Plan Priority Items**

10 Ms. Murray reported on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) priorities. The CAP was adopted in
11 2021 with ten top priorities. Those priorities are now be enacted. The consultant
12 paleBLUEdot provided a new recommended CAP Top Ten priority list. The Village Board
13 established these 2023-2024 CAP priority items. The list is included in the packet.

14
15 The Sustainability Commission will focus on Local Food and Agriculture, LF 4-2, offer low
16 price compost bins similar to rain barrels to residents and businesses. The Board asked the
17 Commission to look at some other options that might be better suited. Membership
18 discussed Option 1 - that the Village could still provide compost bins through a rebate
19 program, with an alternate Option 2 - subsidize Waste Management's compost subscription
20 (organic waste collection). The first quarter would be free for 300 new subscribers. Around
21 90% of Northbrook residents would qualify to participate in this program, because it is only
22 for single-family and some multi-family residents. The program budget is \$14,000. The topic
23 was opened for discussion.

24
25 Member Lee liked Option 2 because she believed it would bring more people onboard.

26
27 Member Dold agrees with Member Lee. She stated that the composting containers are hard
28 to turn and hard for some to use.

29
30 Member Stash likes the stationary bins in Option 1.

31
32 Chairman Reynolds likes a blended program. He would like to give the residents a choice.

33
34 Member Weiss favors a rebate on the purchase of a compost bin as all families are not the
35 same size and their needs vary.

36
37 Ms. Murray stated that a blended program is a good idea. She likes the idea of giving
38 nutrients back to the soil in Option 1. However, it is difficult for the Village to purchase and
39 store the compost bins. Ms. Murray believes that providing a rebate to the homeowner is a
40 better choice for those that prefer the option of purchasing a compost bin. The rebate
41 would be easiest for Village staff. Discussion followed.

42
43 The consensus is that Membership wants a hybrid program whereby the 1st quarter is free
44 for those choosing the Waste Management Subscription Waste Compost Program. The
45 quarterly cost is valued at \$31 per person. Those individuals wanting a compost bin would
46 purchase a bin of their choice and provide a copy of the receipt online to the Village. They
47 would then receive a \$30 rebate. It is hoped that many would take advantage of the offer.

1 The program would be re-evaluated after one year. Membership feels that the
2 Demonstration Garden is a good spot for a public compost bin. Liaison Murray stated there
3 is currently not a plan for this, but a discussion with staff from Skokie where there is a
4 similar service is scheduled.

5
6 Director Mendel answered a question regarding the Zoning Code. He reported that the
7 Zoning Code is being updated. The last update was in 1988. There are a lot of stakeholders
8 involved. Sustainability elements will include assessing land use and its carbon footprint.

9
10 Member Lee would like to be better informed on how the grid is getting greener. She stated
11 she has a hard time answering sustainability questions.

12
13 Ms. Murray stated that the Village is running with some items in the 2023-2024 CAP Priority
14 List. They are as follows:

15
16 TL 4-1: Conduct a municipal fleet inventory and EV transition implementation plan. The
17 Village will work with Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) on this item.

18
19 TL 5-5: Create an Electric Vehicle (EV) Action Plan for chargers on Village property. Village
20 Staff and MMC will address the item.

21
22 BE 1-5: Provide solar assessment reports to 50 properties. This is already in progress for
23 residents participating in Grow Solar Chicagoland, and businesses who undergo the zoning
24 review process that receive sustainability reviews.

25
26 The Sustainability Commission might also become involved in other priority items which will
27 be discussed at the May meeting.

28 29 **Updates on Other Items**

30 a) Communication Initiatives & Messaging

31 1) Earth Hour took place on March 25th at 8:30 p.m.; 2) Over 20 volunteers participated
32 April 1st at Somme Woods for the Earth Month Kickoff event to remove buckthorn; 3)
33 Information for the 2023 Northfield Township Recycling Program; 4) Somme Woods Earth
34 Month Work Day, Tuesday, April 18, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.; 5) Student Government Day, April 17th
35 students discussed the use of Hoop Houses and the Climate Action Plan; 6) Earth Day
36 Recycling Event April 22, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. at the West Metra Commuter Lot; 7) Northbrook
37 has been recognized as a 2022 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

38 39 b) Solar Permit Data

40 Four solar energy permits were issued in March.

41 42 c) Recycling & Waste Data

43 Textile and household goods are down. This may be because you now have to schedule a
44 pick-up online.

45
46 Recycling is lower than the average.

1 Compost is in line for average years.
2
3 **Old Business**
4 None.
5
6 **New Business**
7 There will be a public open house on April 20 from 5-7 p.m. at the Village Hall Board Room
8 to discuss different ways to incorporate bicycling facilities within the public right-of-way. All
9 are invited to attend.
10
11 **Remarks for the Good of the Order**
12 None
13
14 **Next Scheduled Meeting**
15 The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for Thursday, May
16 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
17
18 **Adjourn**
19 A motion was made by Chairman Reynolds and seconded by Member Weiss 6:46 p.m. to
20 adjourn the Sustainability Commission April 2023 meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.
21
22 Respectfully submitted,
23 /s/ Sue Anetsberger
24 Recorder