

1 APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
2 SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
3 VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
4 APRIL 20, 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 Sandra Dold, Becky Lee, Aaron Stash, Ethan Stepen, Sandra  
8 Weiss  
9

10 **Also Present:** Sustainability Coordinator Liaison Tessa Murray; Director of Development &  
11 Planning Services Jonathan Mendel  
12

13 **Absent:** Rod Burton, Ying Wang  
14

15 **Guests:** Jill Franklin, Kelly Durov  
16

17 **Review and Approval of Minutes**

18 A motion was made by Chairman Reynolds and seconded by Member Stash to approve the  
19 March 16, 2023 draft Sustainability Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed by  
20 voice vote.  
21

22 Jonathan Mendel introduced himself as the new Director of Development & Planning  
23 Services for the Village of Northbrook.  
24

25 **Hear from the Audience**

26 An email invitation was received from Go Green Northbrook for a tour of the Waste  
27 Management facilities in Romeoville on Thursday, April 27, 2023. Time is to be determined.  
28 RSVP to John Albrecht if interested. Members Dold and Lee are interested in attending.  
29

30 The Library will host a program titled Garden Design for Beauty & Sustainability on Tuesday,  
31 April 25, 7-8 p.m. Please register to attend.  
32

33 **Community Planning Report**

34 Ms. Murray reported on the following:  
35

36 Flamingo Friday Kickoff will take place on Friday, May 12 from 5-7 p.m. at the Village Hall  
37 back parking lot. There will be food, giveaways, and a sustainability game for the kids. Two  
38 commissioners are requested to help out. Members Stash and Weiss will attend.  
39

40 Slow Mow May has been approved by the Board. Signs are available for everyone who  
41 registers to participate.  
42

43 An Earth Day Recycling Event is planned for Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the  
44 West Metra Commuter Lot. There will be dumpsters for single stream recycling.  
45

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 p.m.; 2) Over 20 volunteers participated  
32 April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>  
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 b) Solar Permit Data

39 Four solar energy permits were issued in March.

40 c) Recycling & Waste Data

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

43  
44 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