

1 APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
2 SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
3 VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
4 MAY 18, 2023  
5

6 Chairman Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Terrace  
7 Room. Present were Members Rod Burton, Becky Lee, Aaron Stash (late 5:38 p.m.), Ethan  
8 Stepen, Sandra Weiss  
9

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

13 **Absent:** Sandra Dold, Ying Wang  
14

15 **Guests:** Chris Phenner  
16

17 **Review and Approval of Minutes**

18 A correction was made on Page 1, Line 37 to switch the name from Member Dold to  
19 Member Weiss for the Flamingo Friday event. A motion was made by Chairman Reynolds  
20 and seconded by Member Lee to approve the April 20, 2023 draft Sustainability Meeting  
21 Minutes as amended. The motion passed by voice vote.  
22

23 **Hear from the Audience**

24 An email was received acknowledging that the applicant for 916 Dundee Road has  
25 withdrawn its proposal for redevelopment of the property formerly known as Green Acres  
26 Country Club. The email states that the property is a habitat for native species and the  
27 resident is concerned. Director Mendel stated that the topic is out of the purview of the  
28 Sustainability Commission.  
29

30 An email was received asking that Buckthorn be placed on the invasive species list. Ms.  
31 Murray answered that the species has been considered previously. It is an enforcement  
32 issue as some people use it for green screening. The Village has a pamphlet on how to  
33 address Buckthorn. Buckthorn is found on both private and public land.  
34

35 **Community Planning Report**

36 Ms. Murray reported on the following:

37 Flamingo Friday Kickoff took place on Friday, May 12th at the Village Hall. Members Stash  
38 and Weiss participated. The Sustainability Commission offered two interactive games for  
39 kids.  
40

41 77 residents registered with the Village to participate in Slow Mow May.  
42

43 Northbrook Farmers Market season opening will take place on Wednesday, June 21 at 10  
44 a.m. at Meadow Plaza. Native plants will be given away. Member Weiss volunteered to  
45 come the first hour and Member Lee will come at 9 a.m. Chairman Reynolds will try to  
46 attend if possible.

The Earth Day Recycling Event for Saturday, April 22 was a success at the West Metra Commuter Lot. There were dumpsters for single stream recycling.

### **2023-2024 Climate Action Plan Priority Items**

Ms. Murray reviewed the 2023-2024 Climate Action Plan (CAP) priorities. The Board and the Commission agreed on the next step of priorities. Some of the recommended priorities include:

- BE 1-5: Provide solar assessment reports to 50 properties annually along with informational workshop
- HS 3-5: Develop a debris management plan to support response to severe storm events and flooding
- GS 1-4: Conduct a Solar and Tree Compatibility study to actively identify the best sites in the Village for tree canopy expansion as well as the best locations for solar PV installations
- CE 4-1: Add a Carbon Impact Fee to all new development as a percentage of the building permit fee

Ms. Murray stated that BE 1-5 began last year when the Village and Library hosted “Grow Solar Chicago”. Attendees received a link to schedule a site assessment with a solar vendor. Approximately 100 people attended, eighteen received free site assessments. Four sought contracts and received a reduced rate due to their participation in the program. The program will be offered again this year: the program is geared to residents and small businesses.

Member Burton wants the solar information to incorporate quantitative measurements regarding carbon footprint reduction in addition to economic returns on investment.

Ms. Murray stated that the Village is partnering with the Skokie Public Library and Midwest Renewable Energy Association on a program titled, “Geothermal Heat Pumps for Homeowners” that will take place on Tuesday, May 23, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Skokie Public Library. There is the option to participate with Zoom.

Member Stash believes that GS 1-4 and BE 1-5 go together but that he wants to focus on the solar tree compatibility study before the solar assessments. Ms. Murray agreed that it makes sense to consider their compatibility when assessing solar plans.

Member Stash does not want to recommend another fee as proposed in CE 4-1. Chairman Reynolds agreed as the Commission wants to see the effects of the new Bag Ordinance first.

Member Lee asked what is included in HS 3-4, debris management. Tree management tips were included in the packet. HS 3-4 should be addressed in September as it is Energy Preparedness Month and that the information can be disseminated throughout the Village. HS 3-4 is for overall preparedness for weather events. Ms. Murray stated that the Commission should focus on proactive versus reactive management. Public Works and other emergency management operations are responsible for the response side.

Consensus is the Commission will focus first on a Solar and Tree Compatibility study followed by the solar assessment reports. Ms. Murray will work with GIS staff to put together a map that layers all of the requested factors in place. Membership had questions as to how to quantify the area. Ms. Murray pulled up a map of current solar projects within the Village.

Member Stash feels it is important for neighbors to be able to ask neighbor questions regarding solar installation and use the map as an outreach tool.

Ms. Murray stated that GIS staff is able to aide in providing much information as they are requesting shapefile data from Google Project Sunroof. She asked membership to seek information for the next meeting as to what other towns are doing to help provide solar assessment reports and if they are partnering with vendors.

### **Updates on Other Items**

#### **a) Communication Initiatives & Messaging**

1) Earth Day Recycling Event on April 22, 2023 was very well attended. Over 900 people participated; 2) Arbor Day Seedling Giveaway took place on April 28, 2023 next to the Village Hall; 3) Earth Month Work Day at Techny Prairie Park took place April 30<sup>th</sup>. Member Stash attended; 4) The Library presented Garden Design for Beauty & Sustainability on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Northbrook Public Library; 5) Chicago River Day at Somme Woods, May 13th from 9 a.m. – 12 noon; 6) Grow Geo Chicagoland, join a group to reduce the upfront cost of installing geothermal; 7) Slow Mow May, reduce mowing and support local ecology.

Ms. Murray reported that 900 plus people attended the recycling event on Earth Day. Included were 51 bikes donated, 2,000 + lbs single stream recycling, 2,000 lbs of textile and household donations, 11,000 lbs of e-waste, 19,000 lbs of paper shredded, 15 drums containing 55 gallons each of paint, and 10 gaylord bags of Styrofoam. Member Stash asked if it was possible to have Earth Day e-waste collection more than one time per year.

#### **b) Solar Permit Data**

Presented during an earlier agenda item. 5 new permits were issued in April.

#### **c) Recycling & Waste Data**

Compost is the same.

Textile was way up.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Remarks for the Good of the Order**

Chairman Reynolds shared that there is a worm compost farm at his place of employment.

1 Member Lee shared her knowledge/experience with geo thermal as she has it in her home.

2  
3 **Next Scheduled Meeting**

4 The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for Thursday, June  
5 15, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

6  
7 **Adjourn**

8 A motion was made by Member Stash and seconded by Chairman Reynolds at 6:52 p.m. to  
9 adjourn the Sustainability Commission April 2023 meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

10  
11 Respectfully submitted,

12 /s/ Sue Anetsberger

13 Recorder