

1 APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
2 SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
3 VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
4 JUNE 15, 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, Sandra Dold, Becky Lee, Ethan Stepen, Sandra
8 Weiss, Ying Wang
9

10 **Also Present:** Sustainability Coordinator Liaison Tessa Murray, Sustainability Intern Derrik
11 Chen
12

13 **Absent:** Aaron Stash
14

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

17 **Review and Approval of Minutes**

18 A correction was made for a time change for Member Weiss to make an appearance at the
19 Northbrook Farmers Market on June 21, 2023 from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. start time. A motion to
20 approve the May 18, 2023 Sustainability minutes with one correction was made by
21 Chairman Reynolds and seconded by Member Lee. The motion passed by voice vote.
22

23 **Hear from the Audience**

24 An email received regarding bicycle safety will be shared with the Bicycle & Pedestrian
25 Commission. Ms. Pandit stated that as a parent, she is not comfortable with students
26 pedaling bicycles to Glenbrook North High School with the car traffic on Shermer Road.
27 Discussion followed. Membership suggested that perhaps volunteers would bicycle with the
28 students on days that school is in session and weather is pleasant.
29

30 Member Lee liked the idea of supporting community bicycle events, one time per month, to
31 a predetermined location, weather permitting.
32

33 Member Lee asked for follow up information on a topic discussed by the Sustainability
34 Commission regarding painted crosswalks. Ms. Murray relayed that the Village Engineer
35 answered that the Federal Highway Administration does not allow it as it is considered a
36 hindrance to safety.
37

38 Ms. Murray stated that the Village is moving forward with the multi-use sidewalk along
39 Shermer Road. The Sustainability Commission was involved by endorsing this project and
40 providing recommendations to be incorporated in the design.
41

42 **Community Planning Report**

43 Ms. Murray reported on the following:
44

45 Northbrook Farmers Market will open on Wednesday, June 21 at 10 a.m. at Meadow Plaza
46 Shopping Center. Native plants will be given away by the Sustainability Commission.
47

1 Member Weiss volunteered to come at 8 a.m. and Member Lee will come at 9 a.m.
2 Chairman Reynolds will try to attend if possible.

3
4 The Community Moment schedule is as follows:

5 June 27 – Member Weiss, Topic – Energy
6 July 25 – Member Wang, Topic – Water Conservation
7 August 22 – Member Dold, Topic – Bird-Safe Lighting
8 September 26 – Chairman Reynolds, Topic - Community Garden

9
10 **2023-2024 Climate Action Plan Priority Items**

11 Ms. Murray reviewed the 2023-2024 Climate Action Plan (CAP) priorities.

12
13 Ms. Murray reported that the Discount Composting Program project is underway.

14
15 The Solar Compatibility Study along with the Tree Canopy Study is delayed. GIS staff is
16 working on the Solar Compatibility map. A request will need to be made to access the data
17 for privacy reasons.

18
19 The Sustainability Commission agreed to discuss Climate Action Plan (CAP) Item BE 1-1:
20 Conduct a Renewable Energy Master Plan for achieving 50% renewable energy for all Village
21 Facilities and operations by 2030, and a pathway to achieve 100% by 2040.

22
23 Ms. Murray stated that Village operations do not include the Park District. They have their
24 own jurisdiction.

25
26 Member Wang asked how many buildings the Village owns. They include: Water Plant,
27 Village Hall, Fire Station 10, Fire Station 12, Metra Station, Police Station, Fire Station 11,
28 Fleet Garage, and Civic Building. Some buildings are included in an ongoing facilities plan
29 with sustainability measures being assessed. Member Dold asked if any of the buildings had
30 ample land where there is the possibility for geothermal wells.

31
32 Member Lee stated that she had a difficult time finding reputable sources while trying to
33 look up renewable energy credits. Member Dold suggested she look at Ball State University
34 Power Consumption for their buildings. The site has useful information.

35
36 Member Burton asked how energy credits come in. Ms. Murray answered that the
37 soon-to-be hired consultant will help.

38
39 Ms. Murray shared that the Village, along with other municipalities, is in a franchise
40 agreement with ComEd. The Village is compensated by ComEd for letting them use the
41 right-of-ways. Currently, there is little economic benefit for the Village to make changes for
42 energy efficiency. This agreement expires in 2027.

43
44 Member Dold would like to see which buildings are the best candidates for renewable
45 sources that make sense for the next 20 years.

1 Member Burton asked if the facilities study included public vehicles. Ms. Murray answered
2 that this will be addressed through a different item. The estimate for the Consultant did not
3 include vehicles.

4
5 Member Wang stated that energy savings can be found in low hanging fruit such as being
6 mindful of indoor temperatures and cutting back on heating and cooling energy. Member
7 Dold suggested putting out a survey for the employees in each of the public buildings
8 regarding heating and cooling temperatures and analyzing the temperature that most were
9 comfortable with. Staff sitting in an office might have a different comfort level than others
10 working in a maintenance garage.

11
12 Consensus for the long term renewable energy plan includes: funding new energy locally
13 and those added to the regional grid, accounting for projections for the future greening of
14 the overall grid by investigating not only solar but geothermal energy, looking beyond
15 buildings and also to parking lots and other open spaces, making sure we have numbers on
16 what makes the most economic sense for what types of renewable sources at which sites,
17 making sure we know how the goal will or will not be reached if there are no renewable
18 energy credits purchased by 2030 and 2040, identifying which renewable sources work
19 better at which sites, analysis of the age of the existing buildings and how efficient the
20 infrastructure is, behavioral changes (this includes analyzing plug loads for reducing
21 consumption, smart thermostats, passive systems). The Village buildings should be looked at
22 for insulation performance metrics, and include shade trees for cooling effects.

23
24 **Updates on Other Items**

25 a) Communication Initiatives & Messaging
26 1) Pollinator week is June 19th-25th. One can receive a free pollinator plant at the Farmers
27 Market on June 21st; 2) The Demonstration Garden will host educational workshops monthly
28 on Tuesdays, beginning June 20th from 2:30 – 4 p.m. Register for this event at the Library; 3)
29 Farmers Market Opening is Wednesday, June 21st. There will be give-a-ways. President
30 Ciesla will slice and offer watermelon slices.

31
32 Ms. Murray reported that she and Mr. Chen will be visiting the homes of Northbrook
33 residents to photograph pollinator gardens.

34
35 The Plein Air Festival Photo Contest will include a new category this year, pollinators.

36
37 b) Solar Permit Data
38 3 for the month of May.

39
40 c) Recycling & Waste Data
41 No information available.

42
43 **Old Business**

44 None.

45

46 **New Business**

47 None.

1

2 **Remarks for the Good of the Order**

3 Liaison Murray introduced the new summer Sustainability Intern for the Village, Derrik
4 Chen. Mr. Chen is a student at Northwestern University seeking a major in Economics and a
5 minor in Sustainability. The Commission welcomed Mr. Chen.

6

7 **Next Scheduled Meeting**

8 The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for Thursday, July
9 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

10

11 **Adjourn**

12 A motion was made by Chairman Reynolds and seconded by Member Lee at 6:37 p.m. to
13 adjourn the Sustainability Commission June 2023 meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

14

15 Respectfully submitted,
16 /s/ Sue Anetsberger
17 Recorder