

1  
2 APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
3 COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
4 VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
5 NOVEMBER 16, 2023  
6

7 Chairman Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Terrace  
8 Room. Present were Members Sandra Dold, Becky Lee, Bernadette Knight, Ethan Stepen,  
9 Sandra Weiss

10  
11 **Also Present:** Director of Planning Services Jonathan Mendel

12  
13 **Absent:** Aaron Stash, Ying Wang

14  
15 **Guests:** Kelly Durov, Jill Franklin, James Lamb, John Novison

16  
17 **Review and Approval of Minutes**

18 A motion was made by Member Knight and seconded by Member Dold to approve the  
19 October 19, 2023 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion  
20 passed by voice vote.

21  
22 **Hear from the Audience/Public Comments**

23 Mr. Lamb spoke on encouraging water conservation. He asked the Commission to look at  
24 Tucson, AZ's residential water plan. It has a whole different water billing system based on  
25 consumption. He asked if the Village has a water conservation plan. Director Mendel  
26 answered that this is outside the purview of the Sustainability Commission. Mr. Lamb should  
27 direct his comments to Public Works and the Village Manager.

28  
29 Member Dold asked Mr. Lamb to share any information he has on Tucson's water billing  
30 plan with her.

31  
32 **Community Planning Report**

33 Director Mendel stated that the 2023 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Greenhouse Gas and  
34 Inventory Report is coming soon. Director Mendel will distribute the report to membership  
35 when it is ready for release.

36  
37 Pumpkin weight was 2.44 tons from the Pumpkin Smash held on November 4, 2023 at  
38 Northbrook Court. An individual attending the event asked Member Lee if there was an  
39 opportunity to collect left over candy for a donation program.

40  
41 Director Mendel shared the Village branded reusable bags with any attendees at tonight's  
42 meeting.

43  
44 **New June Environmental Event Planning**

45 Director Mendel distributed an event site plan for the proposed Environmental Fair to be  
46 held at the Village Hall/Library campus with a draft outline put together by Member Stash.

1 Many ideas were submitted online to Director Mendel by membership. The Commission will  
2 work on flushing out those ideas at future meetings. Director Mendel asked if one of the  
3 Commissioners would take the lead due to Village lack of staff. New fiscal year budget  
4 numbers are due to come out in February. There is the possibility that the event could still  
5 happen next June taking into account the time needed to plan the event. Anticipated costs  
6 include equipment rental and staffing, trash removal, giveaways, security costs. These  
7 numbers will continue to be refined. Member Dold asked how many vendors might be  
8 present at the proposed fair. Director Mendel will look for a list of vendor categories but  
9 membership seemed to favor approximately ten. Member Lee would like a tent for the  
10 Sustainability Commission to talk about Village sustainability initiatives. Member Dold  
11 offered to be the project manager to consolidate the plan. She suggested that membership  
12 divide up the sections in the CAP and provide takeaways.

13  
14 Ms. Durov wants to coordinate the date for the Environmental Fair with the Library's events  
15 calendar.

16  
17 Member Knight wants to develop a rain plan.

18  
19 Next steps are to get any and all information to Director Mendel. He will disseminate it to  
20 the group. Member Dold will work on a subordinate power point presentation for next  
21 month's meeting.

#### 22 23 **2024 Village Board Meeting Community Moments Planning**

24 Sustainability Commissioners will provide 2-4 minute Community Moment reports at the  
25 beginning of the Village Board Meetings for FY 2024. Members may repeat previous topics  
26 or seek out new ideas. Volunteers are needed for dates and subjects. Membership decided  
27 to focus on January, February, and March 2024.

#### 28 29 **Old Business**

30 Member Knight asked for more information on the upcoming refuse contract. She would  
31 like the Commission kept in the loop regarding finding and negotiating a new contract.

32  
33 Director Mendel reported that there is not a definitive time for the refuse contract or the  
34 Buckthorn item to come before the Village Board at present time.

35  
36 Ms. Knight provided a verbal report on the Village of Wheeling regarding Buckthorn. To date  
37 the municipality has only received three verbal reports with no enforcement provided. It  
38 was determined that Wheeling uses Home Rule and follows the Illinois Invasive Species Act  
39 as their template. Member Knight is looking for an action plan.

40  
41 Member Weiss would like to see more information in the Village Newsletter stating that  
42 winter is a good time to remove Buckthorn. Director Mendel will investigate how to get a  
43 blurb in the newsletter.

44  
45 Member Dold suggested that Member Knight check to see where Buckthorn hits the CAP in  
46 all categories.

1 **Old Business**

2 Member Weiss would like to see follow up on Ms. Shital's request for more transparency by  
3 having an online dashboard to mark sustainability initiatives' progress on the Village  
4 website. Director Mendel answered that there is a lot of material available on the website  
5 but one must seek it out.  
6

7 **New Business**

8 Member Knight stated she took part in the online Waste Management Survey. The survey  
9 asked three simple questions regarding collection days and time, compost collection and  
10 rates for service. Member Knight was dissatisfied with the questions. She found them to be  
11 confusing and lacking content. She would like to get the Sustainability Commission more  
12 invested in the process.  
13

14 Member Dold believes it would be a good practice if all members on the Commission sign  
15 up for composting service.  
16

17 Member Knight made a motion, seconded by Member Dold to contribute to the Village  
18 2024 refuse and recycling RFP in order to support the goals of the CAP. The motion passed  
19 by voice vote.  
20

21 Director Mendel stated that as individual residents, membership can take the survey and  
22 comment as they like through the email process.  
23

24 **Remarks for the Good of the Order**

25 Director Mendel stated that the search is moving forward for a Village Sustainability  
26 Coordinator. Resumes have been received and interviews are being scheduled.  
27

28 Member Knight went to the Getting to Zero Illinois Summit. She will share information at  
29 the December meeting.  
30

31 Member Stepen reported on the Glenbrook North (GBN) Environmental Group meeting  
32 where Member Knight presented information from the CAP. He stated that students feel  
33 that recycling just goes to the landfill. He would like to see better communication between  
34 the Village and GBN concerning the CAP.  
35

36 Director Mendel shared that the Village has no purview over the schools. They have their  
37 own taxing body. The Village cannot direct policy at the school district.  
38

39 **Next Scheduled Meeting**

40 The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for Thursday,  
41 December 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.  
42

43 **Adjourn**

44 A motion was made by Member Lee and seconded by Member Weiss at 7:27 p.m. to  
45 adjourn the Sustainability Commission November 2023 meeting. The motion passed by  
46 voice vote.  
47

1 Respectfully submitted,  
2 /s/ Sue Anetsberger  
3 Recorder  
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