

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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

Also Present: Director of Planning Services Jonathan Mendel

Absent: Aaron Stash, Ying Wang

Guests: Kelly Durov, Jill Franklin, James Lamb, John Novison

Review and Approval of Minutes

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

Hear from the Audience/Public Comments

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

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

Community Planning Report

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

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

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

New June Environmental Event Planning

Director Mendel distributed an event site plan for the proposed Environmental Fair to be 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.

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