

Approved
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
December 11, 2018

Trustee Han called the Community and Sustainability Committee meeting to order in the Terrace of the Village Hall at 6:30p.m. Present were: Trustees Israel and Collison. Also present were President Frum, Trustee Karagianis, Trustee Buehler, Village Manager Rich Nahrstadt, Director of Development and Planning Services Tom Poupard, Assistant Director of Public Works Matt Morrison, Jackie Clausen, and Village Clerk Debbie Ford.

Call to Order

Hear from the Audience

None

Goals and Priorities for Sustainability for FYs 2019/20 and 2020/21

Assistant Director of Public Works Matt Morrison explained the Village Board asked staff to look at goals and priorities for sustainability for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. He noted it has been a while since this was discussed. The present Sustainability Plan was developed in 2013 in partnership with the Northbrook Park District. The Plan included goals in five categories Energy, Materials Management, Natural Resources, Community Development, and Transportation. Mr. Morrison provided an overview of the steps the Village has taken to meet these goals and priorities the group since the Plans creation in 2013:

- Energy – The Village has received grants for lightning replacement, HVAC optimization, and motion sensors for lights.
- Materials Management – Residents now have access to food scrap /composting
- Natural Resources – Stormwater detention basins are constructed as part of stormwater projects incorporated naturalized plantings in them. The construction of the Wescott Park stormwater facility incorporated a gray water harvesting system for irrigating the fields at the park.
- Community Development – adopted the 2015 Illinois Energy Conservation Code
- Transportation – The Village adopted its Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and is also partnering with Cook County on the Skokie Valley Trial.

Mr. Morrison then discussed Greenest Region Compact 2:

The Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2) was prepared by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and was completed in 2017

- Compact 2 is made up of goals or values in 10 areas and includes a Framework document that outlines strategies and actions to meet those goals/values.

Mr. Morrison then provided an overview of the steps the Village has already taken that align with those identified in the GRC2 Framework. These include:

- Climate – Village’s Master Stormwater Management Plan the Village is part of the Cook County Hazard Mitigation Plan which met goals in the Climate section of the GRC2 Framework.
- Economic Development – Village encourages green innovation among residents and businesses through its Green Business Award and the Green Resident Award the Environmental Quality Commission has reviewed.
- Energy Efficiency – The Village has begun installing LED street lighting and its building codes allow for installation of renewable energies such as solar power and energy efficient heating and cooling such as geo thermal.
- Land – Village is committed to promoting a healthy and diverse urban forest through our tree planting program. The Village also hosts the Community Garden at the Village Hall and Crestwood Place.
- Leadership – The Village has endorsed the GRC2 and partners with other entities where it is beneficial on projects such as the Sustainability Plan.
- Mobility – The recently completed and adopted Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan aligns with several actions outlined in the Framework document. The Village has also added commuter parking spaces at Village Hall and made public parking available at 1657 Shermer (Grainger).
- Municipal Operations – The Village looks to jointly purchase and share services with other organizations where it makes sense for all involved. The Village also seeks grants for sustainability projects where projects have been identified and matching funds have been included in the budget.
- Sustainable Community – The Village has an Arts Commission and Community Relations Commission that advances arts and culture within the Community.
- Waste & Recycling – The Village hosts an Earth/Arbor Day event annually, and through its contract with Advanced Disposal provides curbside recycling and food scrap composting;
- Water – Village has long term water plan and replaces water mains to prevent water loss; the Village assists customers with high bills to find sources of water loss; Building codes require low flow fixtures; and lastly the Village has banned use of coal tar based pavement sealers.

Trustee Israel noted the Village also completed the lining of the sewer systems.

Mr. Morrison then identified that several goals and priorities have been identified for FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21 as the Village is preparing its budget for the coming fiscal year. These are goals/priorities that can be included in the budget and accomplished with existing staff. The first goal or priority that Village staff suggests is the inclusion of a regular sustainability column in the Village's newsletter. Mr. Morrison stated they would allow the Village to provide information to the Village's residents while also recognizing the efforts of the Village. The second suggested goal and priority is the review and enhancement of the sustainability portion of the Village's website. This will allow residents to have easier access to more information.

Mr. Morrison stated that the third suggested priority was the conversion of the remaining T-12 fluorescent lighting at the Village's facilities. The cost to do this is approximately \$60,000 and can be programmed over two fiscal years.

Trustee Karagianis questioned the cost savings. Assistant Director Morrison stated he did not have that information presently. Group discussed briefly.

President Frum asked if the Village is looking at how to deal with the LED traffic signals and what can be done to prevent snow from building up on them? In response, Mr. Morrison stated the Village called its contractor to address this problem and clear the signals during the last snow storm. He discussed the pros and cons with LED lighting not heating up. Mr. Morrison stated that presently there is not a technology that will melt snow from the LED lights.

Mr. Morrison discussed the additional suggested sustainability goals. This included developing and implementing a LED streetlight conversion program. Mr. Morrison stated that funds identified in the CIP for traffic signal improvements could be used for this work. Lastly Mr. Morrison identified participation in the Metro Mayors Caucus GRCorps Program as a goal/priority. The cost is \$17,000/yr. This gets you a staff member, which he suggested could work on website, etc. This would only continue if the Village chooses to.

Trustee Collison asked if staff reached out to other communities that are participating in the program. Mr. Morrison explained this is a new program. He did reach out to Evanston, and they felt so far it was going well.

Village Manager Nahrstadt explained the duties of the staff member provided by the GRCorps Program will depend on their qualifications. Trustee Karagianis questioned the qualifications of this person. Trustee Israel explained there are a lot of people that presently provide guidance to people, and this may be an opportunity.

Trustee Han stated he spoke to Edith Makra of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and it was explained that the Village would receive resume's to review. The positions are held by undergrads.

President Frum stated the decision tonight is to determine if the Village should include this in the budget. Is this a position we would like to look at?

Trustee Israel stated there is a third alternative. Instead of utilizing the intern the GRCorps Program provides the Village could consider hiring a staff member that could incorporate into our mantra. President Frum stated she would suggest trying the internship first and then determine if the Village has a reason to hire additional staff. Trustee Israel agreed.

Trustee Han referenced the multiple goals Mr. Morrison mentioned and he believed it would be a good investment having someone dedicated to these goals.

Trustee Israel stated the Village then needs to determine what we want to focus on - what makes sense for us. Trustee Collison stated, based on what staff has already accomplished, she felt staff could do the work. She is in favor of putting money in budget for now, but she will need to consider further. Trustee Collison discussed some of the short term goals, e.g. educating residents about down spout connections, noting she was interested in this herself and she named other goals she would be interested in.

Mr. Morrison explained how in the past staff had provided education to residents, such as on pesticides and moving forward seeing if there is support in banning plastic bags. Manager Nahrstadt stated he felt it was better to educate the public get the public's input on banning plastic bags.

Trustee Israel stated with staff's knowledge on how the village functions, can staff articulate how they are affected by some of the proposed changes? Where do you see room for improvements and where they can be made. In response, Mr. Morrison stated our fleet is a good example. He explained that before Public Works replaces any vehicle we now look at what the best vehicle is for that use. This has resulted in a 20% drop in fuel consumption. E.g. when ordered the dump truck, that automatically shut off after a specific time. Mr. Morrison stated different vehicle manufacturers are now providing more efficient vehicles.

Trustee Israel questioned what could be done to encourage the public to take more of a stand, for example banning plastic bags. Mr. Morrison explained how the Village has already taken steps, for example through education. He suggested focusing on landscaping and the use of responsible plants, and encouraging rain gardens.

Public Comments:

Doug Gerleman, of GO Green, suggested that the Village do what Glencoe is doing with stormwater and community solar. He noted it is all posted on Go Green's website. He suggested collaborating with other communities, such as Wilmette or Glencoe.

John Albrecht stated he loves the five starter goals the Village has chosen from the 250 in the document, but there are other quality ones you may want to consider such as the LEED initiative. Mr. Albrecht suggested that the Village extend implementation out further over the years.

Sarah Stanford, resident, thanked Village for initiating GRC2. 2020 is when things are really going to start changing. Would like the Village to do more.

Tracy Becker, resident, echoed Ms. Stanford. She also questioned where the Village is with the goals it set with in the past with the Park District. She stated this needs to be our launching point to move on climate change in the Village. Mr. Gerleman mentioned getting out into the community more. Ms. Becker noted the Park District has done innovative things with the School Districts. Schools sit there waiting to make change. Many schools have environmental clubs, but there are none that she knows of in Northbrook.

Becky Ofsaid, resident, noted the latest project is eliminating the use of straws. She referenced the straw/turtle story and thanked the Village.

Jennifer Linton stated she felt there is a need to break up the residential and business communities. Create policies', to make it worth it. President Frum explained the limitations of the Village. Ms. Linton discussed changes to transportation she felt the Village could look at.

Trustee Han stated he was recommending that the Board approve the five things be included in the budget. Trustee Collison moved, seconded by Trustee Israel. On voice vote all were in favor.

Adjourn Meeting

Trustee Israel moved, seconded by Trustee Collison to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. On voice vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s Debra J Ford

Village Clerk