

VILLAGE OF LIBERTYVILLE

SUSTAIN LIBERTYVILLE COMMISSION

February 15, 2022

4:00 PM

MINUTES

Commission: Chairperson Doug Reed, Cathy O'Brien, Carol Cooper, Heather McGreevy, Dave Neu, and Dave Wilms

Village Staff: Erin Baynes, Management Analyst

Guests: Chris Geiselhart, Peter Adrian

1) Approval of January 18th Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Cooper and was seconded by Commissioner Wilms to approve the January 18th meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2) Free Business Recycling Communication Initiative

Chair Reed informed the commission that he forwarded the business recycling letter to Jennifer Johnson of MainStreet Libertyville on February 9th. Johnson will forward the letter to businesses as they are established. Reed requested the Groot-provided list of mailees. O'Brien suggested having a database of those who have been in contact with Sue Reisner of Groot and those who have contacted Baynes about being removed from the contact list. Guest Adrian suggested using Groot's email contact list as opposed to mailed letters. Reed suggested revisiting Groot's contract when it is up for renewal in 2026.

3) "No Idling" Signage for District 70 Schools

Commissioner O'Brien and Chair Reed found three signs posted on the Highland campus. Commissioner O'Brien informed the group that she met with Superintendent Rebecca Jenkins on February 6th and that Butterfield school would be the next school for signage. O'Brien questioned whether it would be easier to have all signs printed now or if they should be manufactured a school at a time. She also mentioned that Wilms's article on no idling was distributed to the schools. O'Brien noted that many popular idling spots do not have signage and was informed that those properties are not owned by the school. Wilms discussed potentially changing the design of the signage to have it stand out against other signs, potentially in a bright green color. He also suggested the Village look at its easements on the school's property where signage could be installed. Wilms will follow up with D128 about signage as well. Reed asked if John Spoden has suggestions for other signage.

4) Bird City Program Qualification

Analyst Baynes informed the group that ACI approved the application for Bird City recognition. Jennifer Kuroda, President of the Audubon Council of Illinois, is available to attend the March 14th Village Board meeting.

5) Green Living Fair Exhibit

Chairperson Reed was happy to see the Green Living Fair in the e-News; Paula Lubenow asked if the Village could also share the link to the event's Facebook page. Reed and O'Brien will be volunteering at the event and would like to have the Commission present. Commissioner Wilms will also be in attendance. Reed asked the group to brainstorm topics of interest; Commissioner McGreevy recommended choosing something unique against other exhibitors. O'Brien proposed reviewing alternatives to single-use plastics with visuals. Reed nominated O'Brien to coordinate the Commission's table. Reed mentioned that the organizers are hoping to have a composting company present, as well. McGreevy also suggested highlighting the achievements and goals of the Commission. Reed suggested two people across two shifts.

6) State Stretch Codes Opportunity

Commissioner Wilms stated that David Fischer, Village Planner, attended the stretch codes meeting. He explained that it looks as though the state will approve the inclusion of stretch code. With the passage of state codes, the code would be included in Libertyville codes.

7) Identify Focus Goals for 2023

Chair Reed reviewed the process from the last meeting regarding goals for 2023. Wilms suggested connecting with the Village to determine the tree species that are included in the tree planting program; Neu explained the problem with cultivars and their lack of adaptability and that he discussed the list with the Village Arborist. McGreevy reiterated that the state codes will address many of our goals with stretch codes. Cooper questioned whether Neu could suggest plants for Village parkways. Neu highlighted the installation of bioswales in the City of Seattle. He suggested a "replace your callary pear tree" initiative for Village-planted trees. Reed informed the group that D70 is partnering with Chartwells to begin a composting program; Cooper reiterated that private citizens often want compost in return for their food scraps. Reed asked for commissioners to consider choosing a project as their initiative. O'Brien thinks the attendees of the Farmers' Market would be especially interested in the Commission's initiatives. McGreevy asked whether we could have a recycling bin designated for Lunch in the Park. Cooper suggested adding a composting component. Guest Adrian explained how Lambs Farm would oversee the management of recycling bins at Lunch in the Park as coordinated by SWALCO. He continued by saying SWALCO would be happy to initiate a compost program for the event, but it would require asking vendors to use compostable packaging, that smaller steps would need to be taken to build a bigger initiative. He offered to draft up a plan for how to educate the public and encourage composting and recycling.

8) Other Items/Updates

Chairperson Reed gave a run-through of upcoming green-oriented events. Reed suggested next meeting to have a topic in mind for a Bird Day event/promotion. O'Brien asked about an agenda item about electric purchasing from NIMEC; Baynes explained that this is a cooperative that acts on behalf of 150 municipalities to recruit competitive bids for the provision of electric service for the Village. Wilms further explained the current climate of electric bidding and the excellent cost of electric as negotiated by the Village and how this makes it more difficult for renewable energy. He also highlighted how wind power is a more sustainable renewable energy sources than solar. Adrian questions whether ComEd has a list of residents and businesses that utilize solar power. Reed also stated that Senator Mary Ellen Allen has a bill up for school lunches. Guest Geiselhart requested that Reed send out information about the bill. Wilms asked whether

there is a way to recognize residents and businesses for using renewable energy; Neu discussed the programs used at the Village of Grayslake (business, home, and neighborhood). The Commission agreed that this would be a positive way of encouraging more participation in sustainability initiatives. Neu said he would share more information about the programs, including a cul-de-sac development proposal. Adrian also spoke about CMAP's talk about sustainability and programming.

9) Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Wilms and seconded by Commissioner McGreevy. The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m. by a unanimous roll call vote. The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 15th, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erin E. Baynes
Management Analyst