

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 @ 6:00pm
Alexa Room – Village Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

Members in attendance: Amy Hartsough, Chairperson; Amy Decker; Lorraine Leisenberg; Sheila Schwartz

Members Absent: Anna Newell, Trustee; George Tuhowski; Alfredo Izquierdo; Chrissy Christian; Hannelore Conley; Susan Simmons

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. April 1, 2025

MOTION by Commissioner Schwartz; SECOND by Commissioner Decker; 3-0 Aye. Commissioner Leisenberg abstains.

4. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

a. Call for Volunteers – Acting Chairperson

Mr. Howe reminded commissioners of Chairperson Hartsough upcoming planned absence and the need for one or more acting chairs. Commissioners Schwartz, Decker, and Leisenberg all offered their assistance. Ms. Hartsough's absence will begin in August and continue through the October meeting.

b. Sister Cities Presentation Feedback

Mr. Howe reported feedback from the Sister Cities Commission – which was positive. Commissioner Schwartz highlighted some of the challenges of presenting, including language barriers and frequent interruptions. A vocabulary translation was also not provided to students in advance, as anticipated. Commissioners felt Commissioner Conley performed well during her presentation and, overall, felt the Commission represented itself well.

c. Update from Previous Meeting

Mr. Howe provided an update on conversations with the resident that attended the April 2025 meeting to discuss concerns with landscaping code violations and a perceived lack of communication from the Village. Commissioners requested that Code Enforcement

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for June 3, 2025 @ 6:00pm.

publish guidance on distinct natural areas and answers to other common resident code questions.

d. Groot program launch update

Mr. Howe provided a brief update on the recent launch of the new Groot contract and related services. The May-June Citizen newsletter promoted yard/food waste collection, and decals for that service were made available at the Village Hall front counter. Commissioners anecdotally reported seeing more yard waste bags for curbside pickup now that paid stickers are not required.

Chairperson Hartsough continues to work with Assistant Village Manager Pape concerning Groot driving training regarding yard/food waste bucket/bin collection.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Bon Appetit/Earth Month Recap

Ms. Hartsough reported that commissioners handed out 23-yard waste stickers/decals at the Bon Appetit event and responded to questions concerning the collection of food scraps (i.e. What can be composted? What kind of container can be used? Will the compost produced be available to residents?). Commissioner Schwartz proposed having additional print materials specific to composting prepared to hand out at future events.

Commissioners reported that the new floor display functioned well. The Chamber of Commerce posted photos and videos on Facebook that include the Commission.

b. Fourth Fest Planning

Chairperson Hartsough led a general discussion on the Commission's plans for the 2025 Northwest Fourth Fest. Commissioners intend to attend the Friday of the festival with a rain-date of Saturday.

Commissioner Decker inquired about the possibility of sharing emailed information pertaining to sustainable options for food vendors.

c. Recycle Coach

Chairperson Hartsough and other volunteer commissioners at Bon Appetit promoted the recent launch of Recycle Coach for the Village of Hoffman Estates service area. Ms. Hartsough reported that several residents were interested and made use of the QR code provided on the Commission's display table.

Mr. Howe informed commissioners that Village Staff are still training on the system and identifying possible improvements or corrections.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Current/Upcoming Initiatives

Commissioner Leisenberg inquired about grease recycling; a service explored some time ago but not yet adopted.

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Commissioner Schwartz requested information pertaining to free paint recycling for residents as a result of the enacted Illinois Paint Stewardship Act, which requires paint manufacturers' responsibility plans by July 1, 2025; paint collection has been offered for a fee during the annual recycling event in August. Mr. Howe will follow up to see if changes are needed to the information about paint collection at the August event for the July-August Citizen newsletter and other Village communications.

Commissioners briefly discussed ongoing iPass transponder collection at Village Hall.

7. OTHER

Several topics were briefly discussed, including green aggregation funds and possible uses; information on the Village website concerning solar energy (dead links and content corrections); and the Village of Schaumburg and Rolling Meadows personnel dedicated specifically to sustainability initiatives, including a recent library panel discussion.

Mr. Howe will follow up and communicate with commissioners before the June meeting regarding the location of Commission meetings during parking lot reconstruction at Village Hall.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.