

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 @ 6:00pm
Alexa Room – Village Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

Members in attendance: Sheila Schwartz, Acting Chairperson; Hannelore Conley; Lorraine Leisenberg; George Tuhowski

Members absent: Amy Hartsough, Chairperson; Anna Newell, Trustee; Sana Zafer; Susan Simmons; Amy Decker

Others in Attendance: Nick Lackowski, Acting Staff Liaison

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended this meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. September 2, 2025

MOTION by Commissioner Leisenberg; SECOND by Commissioner Tuhowski; 4 – 0 AYE.

4. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

a. 2025 Community Pride Award Ceremony

Community Pride nominees shall receive a letter in the mail informing them of their recognition and inviting them to the ceremony, to occur on November 17th @ 6:15PM.

b. Public Works Open House Reminder

The Public Works Open House and Pumpkin Smash will occur on Saturday, November 8th from 10AM to 1PM at the Public Works Center. Commissioners discussed possible educational materials (composting or recycling) to distribute during the event.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Green Business Program Revival

Commissioners Schwartz and Tuhowski discussed that it is unclear how many members there are, who was the most recent recipient, and other concerns with the existing program. Commissioners agreed that the program needs to be reviewed and updated. Mr. Tuhowski

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for November 4, 2025 @ 6:00pm.

will contact the Illinois Green Alliance for the latest guidelines and updates. This item will be discussed further at a future meeting of the commission.

Commissioner Leisenberg requested additional information on the conclusion of the curbside landscape and food scrap collection service and options for residents that wish to compost during the off-season.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2025 Accomplishments | 2026 Outlook

Mr. Lackowski reported that commission accomplishments in 2025 included: participation in Earth Day; Bon Appetit; Sister Cities Soccer Exchange; Northwest Fourth Fest; August Community Recycling Day; Public Works Open House and Pumpkin Smash; the new Groot contract; adoption of the Recycle Coach app; and input on community composting.

Commissioner Schwartz indicated that the community needs to get information regarding Christmas trees, lights, and wrapping paper recycling distributed to residents in some manner. Ms. Schwartz had previously prepared information that was not disseminated but still should be. Commissioners discussed the possibility of meeting with Communications Manager Brito in the future to reiterate the requirements of the Village and the goals and objectives of the Commission concerning communication with residents.

Commissioner Conley proposed a 2026 goal for the commission of educating adults within the community, compared to current/past efforts that have revolved around events that are more child or family focused and present fewer opportunities to speak substantively with adult residents. Ms. Conley and Ms. Schwartz proposed a Sustainability Day event that would focus solely on a variety of sustainable efforts and educational sessions, instead of attending non-environmental events and attempting to speak with guests while their focus is on other things. Commissioner Leisenberg recommended an event in September, after family vacations are typically done and children are back in school. Commissioners also discussed logistics, including possible locations, sponsorships, and presenters, as well as Village – Commission coordination/collaboration and what requirements the Village may have to begin planning such an event.

Commissioners agreed to bring additional ideas to the November meeting. Commissioner Conley volunteered to spearhead these planning efforts.

7. OTHER

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.