

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 @ 6:00pm
Alexa Room – Village Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Members in attendance: Amy Hartsough, Chairperson; Deepak Bhojwani; Shiela Schwartz; Hannelore Conley; Lorraine Leisenberg; Amy Decker

Members absent: George Tuhowski; Sana Zafer; Alina Dekirmenjian; Anna Newell, Trustee

Others in Attendance: Aaron Howe, Staff Liaison

2. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Bhojwani provided an introduction to commissioners, including an interest in property reclamation projects, community collaboration, environmental stewardship, and the advancement of practical solutions.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended this meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. September 2, 2025

MOTION by Commissioner Schwartz; SECOND by Commissioner Decker; 6 – 0 AYE.

b. October 7, 2025

Approval of the October 2025 minutes has been postponed to the December 2025 meeting of the commission.

5. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

a. 2025 Community Pride Award Ceremony – Monday, November 17th @ 6:15pm

Mr. Howe has distributed letters to residents that will be recognized for the 2025 program and is awaiting responses from those interested in attending the ceremony. Commissioner Schwartz expressed interest in presenting awards for the evening. All commissioners were invited to attend on a voluntary basis.

b. Public Works Open House Reminder – Saturday, November 8th @ 10am to 1pm

Mr. Howe reminded commissioners of the upcoming Public Works Open House and opportunities for the commission to volunteer or provide educational materials for the

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event. Chairperson Hartsough, Commissioner Conley, and Commissioner Schwartz expressed interest in participating and providing information to attendees pertaining to composting, associated with the Pumpkin Smash portion of the event. Mr. Howe will prepare a handout.

Commissioner Leisenberg requested an update on the Village's relationship with Collective Resource, the firm that has offered an opt-in composting service in the past. With the Groot contract accepting yard and food waste only through November, commissioners are interested in offering alternative solutions for residents that would like to continue composting during the off-season for Groot. Commissioner Schwartz also requested information pertaining to Simple Recycling and the curbside textile collection service.

Commissioner Decker proposed developing educational materials for residents interested in year-round composting.

c. Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Howe directed commissioners to review the recently approved transportation plan online and prepare questions and/or feedback for a future meeting of the Commission.

d. Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Howe updated commissioners on initial efforts related to the comprehensive plan update, which are largely preliminary to-date. Commissioner Conley remarked on the need to target messaging efforts towards parent-centric events versus child-focused events to obtain more substantive feedback and more captive audiences.

Commissioners discussed additional components of transportation in the community, including e-scooters or e-bikes and how rules and regulations are enforced.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Green Business Program Revival

Mr. Howe will share information pertaining to the previous/existing Green Business Program with commissioners. Commissioner Bhojwani expressed an interest in working alongside Commissioner Zara and Mr. Howe to revitalize the program.

b. 2025 Review | 2026 Planning

Chairperson Hartsough requested that Mr. Howe add into a survey to commissioners a question to identify areas of interest to pursue in 2026. Commissioners discussed opportunities and challenges pertaining to a Sustainability Day event, possibly in October 2026, such as the weekend before the national event, which will be held on October 28, 2026.

Mr. Howe offered to research regional environmental or sustainable conferences that already exist that may offer an opportunity for the Commission.

Commissioner Conley supports hosting a Sustainability Day event as it provides the best opportunity for a captive audience and allows presenters to educate attendees in more topics than individual events based on a specific area of focus, or when Commissioners have attempted to educate attendees of other non-environmental events (i.e. 4th Fest, PW Open House).

Commissioners discussed various components of hosting a Sustainability Day in 2026, including what support is needed from the Village, where it could be hosted (Village Green, NOW Arena, Village Hall, etc.), the possibility of sponsors (SWANCC, etc.), and goals and objectives (educating residents and providing resources, bringing different speakers/presentations into a single environment to offer the best value to those in attendance). Commissioner Bhojwani proposed hosting a unique type of event using Sustainability Plan objectives as a basis.

Mr. Howe requested additional time to research existing options or comparable efforts in other communities, including the possibility of a Green Business Association, or similar. Ms. Conley supported the possibility of starting smaller and working our way up to a large event if attendance warrants doing so. Collaboration with the Schaumburg Township Library – Hoffman Estates branch was also discussed.

Mr. Bhojwani asked commissioners to consider the vision, focus, goals, and objectives of hosting such an event. Ms. Conley asked Mr. Howe to report back to commissioners on possible options and Village administration logistics for small-, medium-, and large-scale versions of this event.

Commissioners briefly discussed the Commission's meeting schedule and areas of interest for 2026. Commissioner Bhojwani expressed an interest in a Green Business Association as an extension of the Green Business Program with a focus on infusing sustainability into existing community functions. Chairperson Hartsough asked about dead links on the Village website Green Business Program and Green Strategies for Business pages, given the dead link monitoring capability that was anticipated with the new website management system. Ms. Hartsough also called attention to the Educational Initiatives section under Sustainability Commission, which does not currently include the articles previously authored by Sustainability Commissioners. Mr. Howe will review and provide an update at the December meeting of the commission.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Sustainability Day Event

This item was discussed as a component of the Commission's 2026 planning efforts, as detailed above.

8. OTHER

a. Meeting Time/Date Survey of Commissioners

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for December 2, 2025 @ 6:00pm.

Mr. Howe will distribute a survey to commissioners to explore interest in changing the Commission's regular meeting date, and to highlight Commissioner's 2026 goals and objectives for the group. Results will be discussed at the December meeting of the commission.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.