

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 @ 6:00pm
Alexa Room – Village Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04PM. A quorum of the commission was not present at that time.

Members in Attendance: Amy Hartsough, Chair; George Tuhowski; Sheila Schwartz; Lorraine Leisenberg; Amy Decker (6:10PM)

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

Others in Attendance: Aaron Howe, Staff Liaison

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A vote to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2024, meeting was not taken as no quorum was present.

4. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

a. Community Pride Award Reminder

Mr. Howe reminded commissioners that the public submission deadline for Community Pride Awards had recently closed. Commissioner Tuhowski requested that his nomination be removed and stated that he has two other nominations to add.

b. Fall Open House Opportunities

- i. Fire Station 24 – 10.12.24
- ii. Fire Station 23 – 10.19.24
- iii. Public Works – 11.02.24

Chairperson Hartsough displayed a handout created with Commissioner Decker and SWANCC that was recently distributed at the annual single-day recycling event at Village Hall. Ms. Hartsough recommended updates to the Village website to match wording revisions from SWANCC about the weekly electronics collection and to ensure the content there matches with the actual practice for battery collection at Village Hall.

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for October 1, 2024 @ 6:00pm.

Ms. Hartsough also recommended the creation of additional materials to distribute at the Fire Station open house events to detail proper disposal of batteries, smoke detectors, and fire extinguishers.

Commissioner Leisenberg and others discussed the challenges and limited options for smoke detector recycling. Mr. Howe will follow up with Fire Chief Wax for more information on the current recommended practice for Hoffman Estates residents. Commissioner Tuhowski recommended a game aspect be incorporated for children that attend. Commissioners are interested in attending these events with giveaways and handouts.

c. 2025 Budget Update

Mr. Howe requested any additional feedback or input on the 2025 commission budget. Commissioners also requested an update concerning Green Aggregation funds. Mr. Howe will follow up with the Finance Department.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2025 Planning (Education, Events, Commissioner Interests, etc.)

Chairperson Hartsough requested ideas from commissioners to identify items of focus for 2025. Commissioner Decker proposed focusing on recycling in general as well as educating residents on recyclable vs. non-recyclable plastics. Commissioners expressed an interest in that topic.

Ms. Hartsough also identified a list of potential 2025 events for the commission to attend or host as educational and outreach opportunities: Bon Appetit; the Schaumburg Library Environmental Fair; Mayor's Monarch Pledge; various open house events; and educational seminars like the Solar Power Hour and other presentation topics.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of additional methods or avenues for public outreach, including the following topics from this meeting agenda.

b. Virginia Hayter Comments and Suggestions

Commissioner Schwartz shared a number of ideas and concerns that had been raised to her from Ms. Virginia Hayter, which included: staffing for sustainable initiatives; a lack of consideration for emergency response and planning within the current Sustainability Plan; backup water supplies; employee language proficiency; efforts to educate residents on the Sustainability Plan; re-establishing native prairies located in the Prairie Stone business park to be designated as an environmental site; Village Green programming that appeals to families and students; the 1970s water quality plan; ideas to plan healthy sustainable meals; and brochures and articles referencing senior education, sustainable clothing, and other topics. Commissioners held a general discussion on these topics. Mr. Howe will also prepare a more thorough response to some of those items.

c. Hoffman in Motion Q&A Recap

Commissioners expressed an interest in continuing to work with the Hoffman in Motion group and to increase or improve educational materials for residents concerning public or alternative transportation options in the region.

d. Ongoing Communications Plan/Planning

Commissioners continue to discuss future opportunities to prepare educational materials. Ms. Hartsough reported on an August meeting she arranged with the Village Communications Manager and Mr. Howe, including discussion of the technical improvements planned for the Village website over the coming year, guidelines for articles submitted by commissioners, and the backlogged articles previously submitted by Commissioners Leisenberg and Conley. Commissioners discussed the possibility of using alternative outreach channels, in addition to the Citizen Newsletter, e-News, and Village website.

e. Bring Your Own Container Initiative Update

Chairperson Hartsough provided an update on the Bring Your Own Container initiative, which was promoted at the August recycling event, June environmental fair, and April Bon Appetit event. Commissioners are continuing to drop off information packets and stickers/decals at restaurants within the Village.

f. August Recycling Event Recap and Sustainability Handout Feedback

Mr. Howe provided some statistics from the event and commissioners discussed possible improvements for future years. Ms. Hartsough recognized Commissioners Tuhowski, Schwartz, and Conley for volunteering with her at the event.

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. OTHER

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.