

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 @ 6:00pm
Alexa Room – Village Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Members in attendance: Amy Hartsough, Chair; Amy Decker; George Tuhowski; Sheila Schwartz; Susan Simmons

Members absent: Hannelore Conley; Lorraine Leisenberg; Anna Newell, Trustee; Alfredo Izquierdo; Chrissy Christian

Others in attendance: Aaron Howe, Staff Liaison

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. August 6, 2024
- b. September 3, 2024

No vote was taken to approve minutes as a quorum of the commission was not present.

4. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

- a. Website Vendor Selection Update

Mr. Howe updated commissioners on the Village process of selecting a new provider for the Village website. Mr. Howe will send links to commissioners of other sites created by the preferred vendor.

- b. Previous Meeting Follow-up

- i. Community Pride Awards

Mr. Howe reminded commissioners that the nomination period has closed and planning efforts for the ceremony are ongoing. Commissioners and Mr. Howe further discussed moving the submission deadline for the 2025 program to the end of July, instead of the end of August, so that nominee properties are as photogenic as possible.

- ii. Village Hall Parking Lot Reconstruction

Mr. Howe spoke individually with Commissioner Tuhowski on plans for this construction project.

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for November 5, 2024 @ 6:00pm.

iii. Website Content Updates for Electronics Recycling and Battery Disposal

Chairperson Hartsough highlighted two edits that are needed to the Village website, including correcting electronics recycling instructions to residents (removing the word “large” electronics from the list of acceptable items) and updating guidance related to proper alkaline battery disposal.

iv. Green Aggregation Funds

Mr. Howe updated commissioners on the current balance of the Green Aggregation funds, approximately \$131,000. Commissioner Tuhowski proposed identifying projects or programs that will have the greatest impact for the greatest number of residents. Chairperson Hartsough recommended setting up a meeting to discuss potential projects with community groups and Village departments, including scouts and other Village commissions. Commissioners expressed an interest in projects that would enhance existing native areas, potentially in the Economic Development Area (EDA). Commissioners also discussed alternative project ideas including a farmers’ market, enhanced community gardens, or reclaiming an area that could be returned to its native state, which could include portions of the Village Hall property.

v. Sister Cities Presentation

Mr. Howe provided a summary of previous discussions with the Sister Cities Commission pertaining to the upcoming Spring 2025 exchange. The Sustainability Commission will be preparing a presentation concerning sustainability in America as well as local or regional programs. Commissioners Tuhowski and Schwartz, among others, requested additional information on what exchange representatives would like to learn about. Commissioners discussed the possibility of tailoring an existing presentation from Commissioner Tuhowski that could be used for this. Mr. Howe will provide the date of the presentation and other details as they are finalized. Translation will be provided by the Sister Cities Commission.

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Open House Preparations

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

Chairperson Hartsough reminded commissioners of the upcoming Open House events and demonstrated an activity that will be used at the Commission’s volunteer table. Ms. Hartsough requested volunteers for each event. Mr. Howe reported that the Village has been registered with SCARCE for the November 2nd Pumpkin Smash event.

b. Educational Opportunities/Materials

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for November 5, 2024 @ 6:00pm.

Chairperson Hartsough detailed recent discussions with Village Communications Manager Missy Brito concerning proper manners of preparing and submitting newsletter articles, e-News, or social media materials. Commissioner Schwartz reminded commissioners of an article prepared prior to the holidays in 2023 that was not published. Mr. Howe will find and submit this content to Ms. Brito for consideration. Ms. Hartsough has uploaded helpful documents to the commission Google Drive.

c. Groot Contract Update

Mr. Howe provided a brief update on Groot contract negotiations. Commissioners requested a more thorough update from Assistant Village Manager Jon Pape. Mr. Howe will obtain that detailed update and distribute to commissioners.

Commissioners held a general discussion on waste hauler practices pertaining to toters/cans and the use of single-use plastic bags for garbage.

Commissioners also asked if the Village could provide residents a reminder that trash cans are not permitted to be in front of the home unless placed out for collection by the waste hauler.

7. OTHER

- a. Commissioners discussed rescheduling the November meeting as the original scheduled date is federal voting day. Mr. Howe will distribute a poll to select the new date.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12PM.