

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 @ 6:00pm
Alexa Room – Village Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members in attendance: Amy Hartsough, Chairperson; Amy Decker; Hannelore Conley; Lorraine Liesenberg; Susan Simmons

Members absent: Alfredo Izquierdo; Chrissy Christian; George Tuhowski; Anna Newell, Trustee; Shiela Schwartz

Others in attendance: Bob Dohn, Sister Cities Commission
Cindy Ruszay, Sister Cities Commission
Vanya Castle, Sister Cities Commission

Jon Pape, Assistant Village Manager
Aaron Howe, Staff Liaison

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment occurred at this meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. August 6, 2024
- b. September 3, 2024
- c. October 1, 2024

A quorum was not present at this meeting to approve minutes.

4. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

- a. Community Pride Award Recognition Ceremony

Mr. Howe reminded commissioners of the November 18th recognition event.

- b. Acknowledgement of Commission volunteers: Fire Station Open House (Hartsough, Conley)
- c. Acknowledgement of Commission volunteers: Pumpkin Smash (Hartsough, Schwartz)

Chairperson Hartsough and commissioners Conley and Schwartz provided feedback from the open house events that they attended on behalf of the commission. At the Fire Station open house, volunteers discussed proper disposal of batteries, smoke detectors, and fire extinguishers with attendees. Volunteers at the Public Works open house distributed seed-pencils to residents that brought pumpkins to be composted.

Commissioner Conley proposed having some form of learning tool to hand out to parents during these events and to encourage their engagement.

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for December 3, 2024 @ 6:00pm.

- d. America Recycles Day recognition

Mr. Howe presented the Office of the Mayor Proclamation for America Recycles Day from the most recent Village Board meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Sister Cities Presentation for April 2025

Representatives from the Sister Cities Commission provided guidance as Sustainability Commission volunteers work to prepare a presentation to soccer exchange participants from Angouleme, France. They will be 16–17-year-old female soccer players. It is a requirement of this exchange that there be an educational component to the trip, which may include tours of Harper College, Hoffman Estates High School, Hoffman Estates Police, Hoffman Estates Fire, and/or Hoffman Estates Village Hall. The Sustainability Commission presentation is scheduled for April 9 at 2PM at Village Hall before soccer practice with the Hoffman Estates United Soccer Club at nearby Cottonwood Park. The soccer exchange and April 2025 Bon Appetit event are not related and do not overlap; host families are needed for both.

The group discussed various topics to cover during the presentation, including: what sustainable practices are observed in this region as compared to where the students are from, particularly regarding energy efficiency and pollution; what schools, businesses, and residents are doing today; what programs and services are available; how efforts compare or are different at the local/regional, state, and federal levels; and other topics that commissioners might find meaningful. The presentation should last approximately 45 minutes and should be in English. The presentation should be provided to the Sister Cities Commission in advance to review content and prepare translations of English terms used in the presentation.

Interested commissioners will have an opportunity to meet as a small group, while maintaining Open Meetings Act compliance, to discuss an outline for this presentation. Mr. Howe will poll commissioners to identify the best time for this smaller group to meet in December. Also, Mr. Howe will share slides from the presentation by SWANCC and Groot at the August 2024 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be considered for inclusion in the April 2025 presentation.

- b. Green Aggregation Funds Recommendations

Commissioners discussed possible projects to utilize a portion of the Green Aggregation Funds that the Village has reserved for sustainable initiatives. This includes reclaiming property to return to its natural state at Village Hall and methods of incorporating educational components into those efforts. Mr. Pape provided assurance that there will be opportunities to incorporate some of those ideas/components into upcoming projects (i.e. the Village Hall parking lot reconstruction).

Commissioners also briefly discussed the possibility of obtaining equipment to assist Public Works in producing a higher quality ground-mulch product to provide to residents for free, a process that Public Works will be testing in 2025 using budgeted funds.

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for December 3, 2024 @ 6:00pm.

- c. NOW Arena Recycling and Composting Plan
- d. Groot Contract Update

Mr. Pape provided insight into Groot negotiations, which are nearing completion. The largest change to the proposed contract is the elimination of landscape waste stickers, replaced with a curbside collection program available to all residents, which will begin in April 2025. Food scraps are also permitted along with landscape waste, so long as the materials are placed in a rigid container. Mr. Pape emphasized the importance of educating residents on this change, a major focus for the Village. Commissioner Decker and others offered ideas for the educational effort, including Earth Month and July 4th events.

It is proposed that changes to the contract go into effect in May 2025, and will be incorporated into a 6-year contract to coincide with the expiration of the Village's agreement with SWANCC for use of their transfer station.

Mr. Pape also informed commissioners of the state of commercial recycling in the Village. Groot offers this service today; however, there are challenges to getting businesses to adopt a program. Educational materials will be prepared over time to assist with any transition or change in service.

Mr. Pape provided a brief update concerning changes in regulations pertaining to recycling and proper material disposal at entertainment venues (the NOW Arena). While nothing is being planned right now, Staff continues to speak with other venues to prepare, as needed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CleanHarbors Household Hazardous Waste Opt-in Residential Pick-up Program

Mr. Pape informed commissioners that the Village has opted out of this program for the time being to focus on changes to Groot service and to learn more from communities that chose to opt in initially. The Village has concerns about the financial viability of this program due to the relatively high costs of participating (\$75 per collection billed to the resident, \$100 per collection billed to the Village). Commissioners questioned whether this service could be incorporated into the Village's annual single-day recycling event. Mr. Pape intends to investigate this possibility.

7. OTHER

Chairperson Hartsough discussed Hoffman in Motion's new survey and recently released report including the Sustainability Commission's July 2024 input (available at hoffmaninmotion.com -> Materials).

8. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.