

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SPECIAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 @ 5:00pm
Alexa Room – Village Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 5:00PM.

Members in attendance: Chairperson Amy Hartsough; Susan Simmons; Hannelore Conley; Sheila Schwartz; Amy Decker (5:40PM)

Others in attendance: Spencer Knapp, resident; Aaron Howe, Staff Liaison

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made at this meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Sister Cities Presentation for April 2025

Commissioner Conley discussed the French President's stated commitments to sustainability, which includes a lot of pressure on various industries to become carbon neutral, use more recyclable and recycled materials, etc. with a focus on changing the habits of individual citizens as well. Ms. Conley also identified a challenge with educating the visiting exchange students – that 16–17-year-olds may know very little about actual sustainability versus household chores.

Chairperson Hartsough asked for Mr. Knapp to participate and share his experience as a teenager. Mr. Knapp stated that he knew he needed to try to make sustainable choices but didn't really know why. Mr. Knapp shared that his Eagle project restored storm retention areas with native plantings.

Commissioners discussed the French education system in general and changes that have occurred in sustainability over the last 15 to 20 years.

Chairperson Hartsough proposed using the Sustainability Plan as a guide and to relate topics back to soccer concepts (4 departments are discussed in the plan and there are 4 main positions on a soccer team). Ms. Hartsough discussed explaining the government structure in Hoffman Estates and what tasks have been assigned to different roles/departments, comparing each to a soccer position as a method to maintain interest and engagement.

Commissioner Conley stated a preference for focusing on learning what is done in France and comparing it to what is done in Hoffman Estates.

The group discussed various potential topics, including: re-use concepts for businesses like breweries that re-use grain for farm feed; plastic recycling and proper disposal; food waste reduction; re-use of recycled materials to make clothing; the importance of native plantings that are water/drought resistant; the reduce, re-use, recycle concept; providing insights into local, state, and federal initiatives, data, scope, and scale; LED light conversions and

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

energy reduction; transportation/transit and the Hoffman in Motion initiative; and alternative energy.

Ms. Hartsough discussed: producer responsibility laws (especially for electronics product recycling); food waste and curbside composting; and care of land, plants, pollinators, and water supply.

Commissioner Decker proposed presenting topics at a higher level and keeping things simple, presenting on topics like sports equipment re-use and recycling, community and school gardens, curbside composting and recycling, solar energy, little libraries, and local food pantries.

Chairperson Hartsough proposed selected 3-4 topics to discuss and providing information in advance to the exchange coordinators, so the students are prepared to contribute. Commissioners are interested in learning about Angouleme's local transportation, recycling, alternative energy, and other Green initiatives.

Mr. Howe will prepare draft materials for the group to review and discuss. Mr. Howe will also schedule a special meeting prior to the January 2025 regular meeting of the commission.

4. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at 5:57PM.