

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Members in Attendance: Amy Hartsough, Chairperson; Hannelore Conley; Lorraine Leisenberg; Sheila Schwartz; Susan Simmons; Amy Decker; George Tuhowski (6:10PM)

Members Absent: Alfredo Izquierdo; Chrissy Christian; Anna Newell, Trustee

Others in Attendance: Aaron Howe, Staff Liaison

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. January 7, 2025 (special meeting)

MOTION by Commission Conley; SECOND by Commissioner Simmons; ABSTENTION by Commissioner Schwartz; 5-0 AYE.

b. January 7, 2025 (regular meeting)

MOTION by Commissioner Simmons; SECOND by Commissioner Conley; ABSTENTION by Commissioner Schwartz; 5-0 AYE.

c. January 15, 2025 (special meeting)

MOTION by Commissioner Conley; SECOND by Chairperson Hartsough; ABSTENTION by Commissioners Tuhowski, Simmons, and Leisenberg; 3 – 0 AYE.

4. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

a. New Groot Food Waste/Composting Service

Mr. Howe provided information pertaining to the upcoming changes to the Groot waste hauling contract. Topics of discussion included bio-degradable bag options for compostable materials, how drivers will know which collection bins are compostables, and how bins may be kept clean over time.

Commissioner Schwartz advised that educating residents thoroughly at the beginning of the program changes should improve compliance. Chairperson Hartsough proposed getting

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for March 4, 2025 @ 6:00pm.

all the details into the upcoming Citizen newsletter and setting up a frequently-asked-questions portal on the Village website to assist residents.

Commissioners expressed general disappointment that the service is only offered during landscape waste collection season. Mr. Howe reported that the NOW Arena is coordinating with Collective Resource for food waste collection. Also related to off-season food waste collection, Commissioner Leisenberg provided information pertaining to the compost program offered in the City of Naperville, where community bins are provided in various locations throughout the City.

b. iPass Transponder Collection

Mr. Howe informed commissioners of SWANCC's current position pertaining to iPass transponder recycling – a service that will be offered at annual recycling events in SWANCC communities. Commissioners expressed an interest in establishing a drop-off bin at Village Hall.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Sister Cities Presentation for April 2025

Commissioner Conley performed a walk-through of the draft presentation. Mr. Howe will make updates to the content based on feedback from the group. Mr. Howe will share feedback from the Sister Cities Commission once it has been received.

b. Planning for April (Bon Appetit, Earth Month) and Northwest Fourth Fest

Commissioners discussed volunteering for the Bon Appetit event; volunteers must buy tickets to the event to attend. Chairperson Hartsough provided additional details: the event will be held at Bell Works; volunteers should plan to arrive around 4:00PM; and commissioner volunteers at the event will be promoting the Groot contract changes pertaining to food waste collection. Ms. Hartsough intends to speak with event planners and Bell Works staff to coordinate recyclables collection.

An incentive for event attendees was proposed, where individuals who participate by using the waste bins will receive a raffle ticket. Signage and educational materials were also discussed, including proposal for printed Citizen newsletters to be available with the details along with a sample food waste bin. Commissioners entertained various ideas for giveaways and handouts for the event, including compostable bags and stickers or decals. Mr. Howe will check with Groot to see if they would be willing to provide any of those materials for the event.

The group briefly discussed opportunities for the Northwest Fourth Fest as well, including reusable beverage containers and recent guidelines issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Cook County Sustainability Department.

6. OTHER

Commissioners requested updated information pertaining to Green Aggregation funds held by the Village. Mr. Howe reported that the nature restoration/education discussed in previous meetings

may be covered by the Village Hall parking lot project grant, saving Green Aggregation funds for future initiatives.

Mr. Howe will send construction plans for the Village Hall parking lot replacement project to Commissioner Tuhowski for his review and comment concerning permeable asphalt and nature restoration.

Commissioners discussed the reusable to-go container initiative and whether area businesses are well-educated about the current guidelines and proposed educating businesses during the license application process with the Village.

Commissioner Tuhowski recommended setting realistic and measurable goals as the commission pursues various initiatives. For example, a goal and method of measuring food waste collections.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33PM.