

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 @ 6:00pm
Alexa Room – Village Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER (6:00 PM)

Members in attendance: Amy Hartsough, Chairperson; Amy Decker; Sheila Schwartz; Susan Simmons; Hannelore Conley; George Tuhowski

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

Others in Attendance: Monica Bernal-Munera, Resident; Aaron Howe, Staff Liaison

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (6:00 PM)

Ms. Bernal-Munera introduced herself as a 10-year resident who was recently issued a citation for natural landscaping on her private property that was cut down by the Village. Ms. Bernal-Munera reported others in her neighborhood with similar experiences. Mr. Howe will follow up.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (6:05 PM)

a. March 4, 2025

MOTION by Commissioner Simmons, **SECOND** by Commissioner Conley; **6 – 0 AYE**

4. STAFF LIAISON REPORT (6:05 PM)

a. Call for Volunteers – Acting Chairperson

Chairperson Hartsough will be absent from the August, September, and October meetings of the commission and has requested one or more volunteers to serve as acting Chairperson while she is away.

b. iPass Transponder Recycling/Collection

Commissioners discussed the new collection bin at Village Hall, located near the other special recycling containers. iPass transponders will also be collected at the annual recycling event in August. Commissioner Tuhowski inquired about how transponders are deactivated before being dropped off to be recycled. Commissioners generally feel that dropping transponders into a public collection bin should be safe.

c. Curbside Composting Program – Decals

Mr. Howe confirmed that the Public Works Department – sign shop has prepared 100 decals for distribution at the upcoming Bon Appetit event, and another 100 to be provided to residents at the front counter at Village Hall. Commissioners also requested additional Citizen newsletters and preparation of a pop-up floor sign to be used at the event. Mr. Howe will coordinate those items.

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

5. OLD BUSINESS (6:15 PM)

a. Sister Cities Presentation for April 2025

Commissioners confirmed/approved of the final draft presentation prepared by Commissioner Conley and Mr. Howe, with input from a variety of other commissioners. Mr. Howe will send details of the event to commissioners that wish to attend.

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

Chairperson Hartsough updated commissioners on public outreach efforts planned for Earth Month, which includes content related to the new curbside food waste – composting program, updated daily social media postings, and information about the Recycle Coach app. Commissioners requested additional information on how the Village intends to promote Recycle Coach to residents.

c. Village Hall Parking Lot Reconstruction – Sustainable Opportunities

Mr. Howe previously distributed digital plan sets to Commissioner Tuhowski for review. Commissioner Tuhowski provided some initial feedback, largely in support of the proposed plan. Work to remove and reconstruct the parking lot at Village Hall is set to begin this summer and end in the fall.

d. Green Aggregation Funds

Mr. Howe confirmed that these funds are still available, but the Village currently has no projects planned. Mr. Howe encouraged commissioners to consider projects that they may advise the Village to consider in the future. Commissioners discussed the possibility of an educational sustainable installation on the Village Hall grounds in 2026.

6. NEW BUSINESS (6:35 PM)

a. Hoffman in Motion Meeting Recap

Ms. Hartsough provided an update to commissioners on the March 7th meeting of the Hoffman in Motion committee, which is nearly prepared to make a presentation to the Village Board of Trustees with their findings/recommendations. Ms. Hartsough detailed some of those recommendations and priorities, including lower emission transportation, closing gaps between existing bike paths, improving pedestrian routes between west and central Hoffman Estates, and converting some bike lanes to dedicated bike paths. The Village is working with the County, Pace, and other interested stakeholders on the plan proposal.

Commissioner Schwartz provided some insight into the upcoming Pace budget, as a member of the Pace advisory board.

b. Recycle Coach

Ms. Hartsough and Mr. Howe spoke briefly about the availability of the Recycle Coach application, which will be adopted by the Village in the near future.

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7. OTHER (6:50 PM)

Mr. Howe provided a brief update concerning the ongoing selection of a firm to perform a space needs study for the Department of Public Works.

Ms. Bernal-Munera requested guidance concerning butterfly gardens and native plantings on her property that were recently removed or cut down. Ms. Bernal-Munera believes the Village should release additional information to assist residents in properly/appropriately planting those items on their property.

Commissioner Decker emphasized the importance of committing to the basics, including proper recycling techniques, in educational materials.

8. ADJOURNMENT (7:00 PM)

This meeting adjourned at 7:14PM.