



**Village of Lincolnwood
Environmental Commission Meeting
Gerald C. Turry Village Board Room
Monday, January 23, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairperson Ahmed.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Najia Ahmed, Chairperson
Jonathan Powell, Commissioner
Nashra Mohammed, Commissioner
Tabassum Qurashi, Commissioner
Bridget O'Callaghan Gjokaj, Commissioner

Members Absent

Amreena Suri, Commissioner

A quorum was present.

Others Present

Brendon Mendoza, Staff Liaison
Matthew Pasquini, Staff Liaison
Atour Sargon, Trustee Liaison

3. Approval of Minutes from the November 28, 2022, Environmental Commission Meeting

Commissioner Powell made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Qurashi.

Upon roll call the results were:

AYES: Commissioners Mohammed, Powell, Qurashi, O'Callaghan Gjokaj

NAYES: None

The motion passed.

4. Chairperson Report

Chairperson Ahmed discussed putting environmental dates in the newsletter along with tips for those days. Chairperson Ahmed also asked to correct the dates of the Environmental Commission meetings in the Village newsletter to indicate that the Commission meets once a month as part of the new meeting schedule.

Chairperson Ahmed stated that Niles Township Supervisor, Bonnie Ognisanti, is interested in presenting to the Commission at a future Environmental Commission Meeting.

Chairperson Ahmed shared that representatives from Pulse Technology are interested in presenting to the Commission as they may be able to provide solutions for more sustainable municipal operations.

Chairperson Ahmed noted that she thinks it would be beneficial for a member of the Commission to attend Park and Recreation Board meetings, especially if there is a topic of interest to the group. The Commission agreed.

5. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Qurashi mentioned that she has been attending School District 74 (SD74) Board Meetings to share information about the Commission and the Village's interest in pursuing goals related to the environment and sustainability. She stated that this will be an ongoing effort to improve coordination between the Village and SD74.

6. New Business

None.

7. Old Business

a. Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule

Chairperson Ahmed informed commission there is an adjustment in the Environmental Commission meeting schedule. The April 24, 2023, meeting will be moved to April 17, 2023 due to a conflict with the Village Board Meeting on April 24, 2023. Commissioner Powell made a motion to approve the meeting change. Commissioner O'Callaghan Gjokaj seconded the motion.

Upon roll call the results were:

AYES: Commissioners Mohammed, Powell, Qurashi, O'Callaghan Gjokaj

NAYES: None

The motion passed.

b. Clean Up Events

The Commission discussed dates for the upcoming spring cleanup at Centennial Park. Staff Liaison Mendoza shared that ongoing construction at Centennial Park may be prohibitive depending on when the MWRD Sludge Line Project is completed but will keep the group informed. Due to this, the Commission agreed that the cleanup will take place along the Valley Line trail on Sunday, April 30, 2023, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

c. Sustainability Plan

Staff Liaison Pasquini shared that he will be accepting comments from the Commission for the draft Sustainability Plan. He outlined the proposed schedule for the final draft and presentation to the Board of Trustees for their consideration. A final draft will be ready at the February 27, 2023, Environmental Commission Meeting. Following the presentation of a final draft to the Commission, the Commission will vote to approve the document and recommend its approval to the Village Board by April or May of this year, pending the Village Board's agenda schedule.

The Commission and Staff proceeded to discuss the plan and proposed revisions. Chairperson Ahmed mentioned that an item was not included regarding food scrap waste. Staff Liaison Pasquini indicated that he will ensure that item is included in the next draft of the plan.

Commissioner Powell provided his feedback, which he stated was also emailed to staff. He emphasized his recommendation to add information about the Village's effort to reduce chloride runoff into nearby waterways. He provided feedback on adding background regarding the North Shore Channel, its importance to the region and community, and steps that can be taken to improve it as a natural resource such as restoring native species. Finally, he asked if Staff can include additional information about ongoing and planned "green projects" in the Village.

Commissioner Powell discussed the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and asked if the Village has adopted it into its own municipal code. Mr. Pasquini confirmed that the Village has adopted and abides by the IECC.

The Commission emphasized the need for increased educational initiatives to inform residents about proper disposal of hazardous household waste. Staff Liaison Mendoza shared this information is available on the Village's website and staff will work on further promoting this information.

8. Staff Report

Staff Liaison Mendoza shared that the Village will be purchasing multiple hybrid squad cars for the Police Department.

Staff Liaison Pasquini announced that the Village recently purchased and plans to install an electric vehicle charging station at Proesel Park.

9. Comments from the Public

None.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Commissioner Mohammed seconded the motion.

Upon roll call the results were:

AYES: Commissioners Mohammed, Powell, Qurashi, O'Callaghan Gjokaj

NAYES: None

The motion passed.

By: Brendon Mendoza, Assistant to the Public Works Director