



Village of Lincolnwood Environmental Commission Meeting
Village Hall Council Chambers
Monday, January 24, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairperson Ahmed.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Nashra Mohammed, Commissioner
Susan Perdomo, Commissioner
Amreena Suri, Commissioner
Tabassum Qurashi, Commissioner
Jonathan Mark Powell, Commissioner
Dale Wickum, Commissioner

Members Absent

Sharon Mau, Commissioner

Others Present

Jonathan Bogue, Staff Liaison
Atour Sargon, Village Trustee

3. Approval of Minutes from the December 6, 2021 Environmental Commission Meeting

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

Upon roll call the results were:

AYES: Commissioners Perdomo, Powell, Qurashi, Suri, Wickum

NAYES: None

The motion was approved

4. New Business

a. Cookies for Compost Presentation – Maia Roothan

Maia Roothan, a student from Evanston Township High School, provided an overview of the Cookies for Compost program. She shared that the program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and intended to make composting easier for residents within her high school community. She discussed the outreach initiatives that were used to garner interest and provided details about

how the program was implemented throughout the community. She shared that the program has reached its capacity and that 7,500 gallons in total will be collected by March 2022. Ms. Roothan shared the reasons she started the Cookies for Compost project and discussed the lack of accessibility to composting, a recognition of privilege in living sustainably, and empowering people to get involved in climate justice. She discussed the timeline for launching the Cookies for Compost program. Mr. Roothan made herself available to answer questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Qurashi inquired about how the grant funds were distributed. Ms. Roothan shared that grant funding was spent on purchasing cookies, composting services, and marketing. Commissioner Qurashi asked Ms. Roothan if she has long-term goals and she responded that she hopes the City of Evanston will adopt the program to provide more accessible composting services for residents.

Chairperson Ahmed asked about the logistics of collecting the compost. Ms. Roothan explained that she coordinated with a composting service to have the compost picked up, and also coordinated drop-off locations throughout the community.

Commissioner Quarshi asked Ms. Roothan what the biggest challenges have been. Ms. Roothan replied that it has been difficult getting low-income individuals involved in the program.

Commissioner Perdomo asked why Ms. Roothan chose Collective Resources as their partner composting service. Ms. Roothan shared that they are a local woman-owned business that provides a year-round service.

Commissioner Suri asked how composting information gets distributed to interested parties. Ms. Roothan suggested hosting a composting workshop. Commissioner Suri also asked if recruitment of participants into the program is first-come first-serve and Ms. Roothan replied that priority was made for people who struggled to afford composting services.

Chairperson Ahmed asked about locations of recruitment. Ms. Roothan shared that she recruited through the high school, religious organizations, and local businesses.

Trustee Sargon and Commissioner Wickum expressed their appreciation for Ms. Roothan's presentation and thanked her for sharing it with the Commission.

b. Union Pacific Path Spring Cleanup

Assistant to the Village Manager Jonathan Bogue shared that the Union Pacific (UP) Spring Cleanup is scheduled for March 27, 2022. Mr. Bogue shared that the Public Works Department will be providing supplies, that volunteer sign-offs are required, and that pictures should be taken so they can be shared via the Village's communication channels.

Commissioner Perdomo requested that the photo included in the UP Spring Cleanup flyer be of the UP Path. Mr. Bogue responded that the change can be made.

Chairperson Ahmed requested that the end time of the event be included on the flyer. Mr. Bogue agreed to the change.

Trustee Sargon recommended that the Commission limits the number of flyers printed and rely on electronic communications. She also recommended the Commission aim for 50 volunteers. She also inquired about a backup date should the weather conditions be adverse. Mr. Bogue responded that a backup date can be arranged. Chairperson Ahmed suggested that the backup date is in April to potentially align with Earth Day and other environmental holidays held in April.

Commissioner Perdomo shared that printing and distributing flyers will help recruit individuals not present on social media. Mr. Bogue responded that the event will be included in the March/April Lincolnwood Connections newsletter which gets distributed to every household in Lincolnwood.

Chairperson Ahmed shared that in the past, posters were posted on pillars along the path. Mr. Bogue shared that posters can be printed and shared throughout the community similar to what was done for Oaktober Fest. Commissioner Perdomo mentioned that there are areas for public posting along the UP Path and Mr. Bogue shared that Public Works can print posters for members of the Commission to post along the path. The Commission was in agreement.

Chairperson Ahmed asked Mr. Bogue if the Commission can coordinate with Public Works to ensure the posters can be distributed in a timely manner and that the supplies will be prepared to be picked up prior to the event. Mr. Bogue replied yes.

Commissioner Perdomo, on behalf of Commissioner Mau, asked if an additional meeting is needed in February to help prepare for the cleanup event. Chairperson Ahmed shared that is not necessary and that the arrangements will be made to ensure preparations are executed in a timely manner.

Mr. Bogue shared that Commissioner Mau expressed that she is willing to set up a pop-up canopy so attendees know where to meet prior to the event.

Commissioner Perdomo asked who will be able to participate in the cleanup event. Commissioner Powell shared that he is not available. Chairperson Ahmed and Commissioner Wickum shared that they will be in attendance.

Mr. Bogue shared that staff will coordinate the logistics leading up to the event. Trustee Sargon agreed with Mr. Bogue's approach.

5. Old Business

None

6. Staff Report

a. Village Board Direction Overview

▪ Sustainability Plan

Mr. Bogue shared a number of items with the Commission. The first is that the Village Board has charged the Commission with creating a sustainability plan by utilizing a consultant and the Greenest Region Compact 2 Framework.

Chairperson Ahmed asked how soon the Commission can begin work on the sustainability plan and Mr. Bogue shared that it can be as soon as the next meeting.

Commissioner Quarshi asked if developing a sustainability plan warrants more frequent meetings. Mr. Bogue shared that is not the case as staff will need time to piece together all the components that will go into developing a plan.

Commissioner Powell asked if there will be opportunities to discuss various components of a potential sustainability plan at meetings going forward. Mr. Bogue responded that the Commission will have opportunities to review an array of topics and that the Commission will be asked to be prepared to review important information leading up to future meetings.

Chairperson Ahmed asked if the Greenest Region Compact 2 Framework will serve as a guide for how the Commission will work through the creation of a sustainability plan. Mr. Bogue replied yes and recommended that the commissioners familiarize themselves with the document.

Trustee Sargon commented that it's important for staff to take inventory of green initiatives that are already taking place within the Village organization and throughout the community.

Commissioner Suri asked if the sustainability plan will be formatted as a three-year plan or a five-year plan. Mr. Bogue shared that part of the process is to identify how the plan is to be structured.

Chairperson Ahmed shared that she believes it would be worthwhile to create a plan that targets goals for the end of the current decade.

- **OaktoberFest**

Mr. Bogue shared that \$500 has been budgeted for OaktoberFest 2022.

Chairperson Ahmed thanked Commissioner Quarshi for her creative contributions to marketing materials.

- **Lincolnwood in Bloom**

Mr. Bogue shared that the Village Board is supportive of continuing Lincolnwood in Bloom. He also shared that the Board expressed interest in offering walking tours of participating designs and creating a holiday lighting contest.

Commissioner Quarshi commented that a holiday lighting event is a festive idea but ironic as it promotes the use of excess power.

Trustee Sargon shared that the Beautification Commission was folded into the Environmental Commission and hoped that the Commission would be open to finding a way to make it their own by encouraging the use of LED lighting and other, more sustainable approaches to decorating for the holidays.

Commissioner Wickum shared that he would like to see a competition focused on residents who do their own decorations as opposed to residents who hire private companies to do the lighting for them.

- **Composting**

Mr. Bogue shared that the Village Board is supportive of moving forward with staff exploring a franchising agreement with a composting vendor. He shared that it would be an optional service

that would be paid for by the resident and not the Village. Finally, he shared that the Village is interested in exploring a community-wide backyard composting presentation.

Commissioner Perdomo shared that she is participating in a composting ambassador program offered by the University of Illinois and is willing to share what she learns.

Chairperson Ahmed asked whether or not the Village is willing to create a survey to gauge interest in composting. Mr. Bogue stated a survey will likely come up when the Village renews its waste hauling agreement and will not coincide with exploring franchise agreements for composting.

The Commission expressed appreciation toward Mr. Bogue for having presented information regarding the importance of a sustainability plan to the Village Board.

7. Comments from the Public

None

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Commissioner Mohammed seconded the motion.

Upon roll call the results were:

AYES: Commissioners Mohammed, Perdomo, Powell, Qurashi, Suri, Wickum

NAYES: None

The motion was approved.

By: Matthew Pasquini, Management Analyst