



**Village of Lincolnwood  
Environmental Commission Meeting  
Gerald C. Turry Village Board Room  
Monday, March 27, 2023  
7:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Ahmed.

**2. Roll Call**

**Members Present**

Najia Ahmed, Chairperson  
Bridget O'Callaghan Gjokaj, Commissioner  
Tabassum Qurashi, Commissioner  
Amreena Suri, Commissioner

**Members Absent**

Jonathan Powell, Commissioner  
Nashra Mohammed, Commissioner

A quorum was present.

**Others Present**

Brendon Mendoza, Staff Liaison  
Matthew Pasquini, Staff Liaison  
Atour Sargon, Trustee Liaison  
Anne Marie Gaura, Village Manager

**3. Approval of Minutes from the February 27, 2023, Environmental Commission Meeting**

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

Upon roll call the results were:

AYES: Commissioners Qurashi, Suri, O'Callaghan Gjokaj

NAYES: None

The motion passed.

**4. Chairperson Report**

Chairperson Ahmed gave Commission updates on Environmental dates. April is Earth month. May 7 – 13 is International Compost Awareness Week. Chairperson Ahmed informed the Commission that Collective Resource will be giving free compost. Chairperson Ahmed requested that the presentation on Composting presented by Kate Cranigie on May 18 at the

Lincolnwood Library and the Electric Vehicle presentation on July 20 at the Lincolnwood Library be posted in the newsletter.

Chairperson Ahmed updated the Commission on the visit to Groot in Elk Grove.

Chairperson Ahmed inquired if the Environmental Calendar is posted online and if not, requested it to be posted on the website.

### **5. Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Gjokaj gave update on the tour of the Groot facility. **THANKS FOR SENDING ME TO GROOT. BRENDON AND MATT. YOU FAILED ME.** Commissioner Gjokaj requested information on what Groot allows and does not allow to be posted on the Village website.

Commissioner Suri had a request regarding the sustainability plan and if it is possible to reach out to the Lincolnwood Chamber of Commerce and all businesses to inform them that the Commission is working on a sustainability plan. Trustee Sargon requested to get more work done on the sustainability plan before informing businesses and the Lincolnwood Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Suri inquired about the new water bill new charge, "rent". She questions what the charge is for and why they are being charged this fee. The question was directed toward Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura. Village Manager Gaura directs the commission to inform anyone to the front page of the website where it explains the new charges.

### **6. New Business**

#### **a. Northwestern Institute for Sustainability and Energy – Mark Pruitt**

Mark Pruitt gave a presentation informing the Commission of his background and that his primary topic of discussion would be community energy planning with sustainability focus.

#### **b. Eartha Palooza**

Chairperson Ahmed reminded the Commission of Eartha Palooza, which is being held on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am until 1pm. Trustee Sargon inquired if the Commission would be having a table at the event. Trustee Sargon also gave an update on the details of the event. Commissioner Qurashi suggested there should be a table. Commission members agreed to participate in take shifts at the event.

### **7. Old Business**

#### **a. Sustainability Plan**

Chairperson Ahmed pointed out some corrections that need to be made on the Sustainability Plan. Staff Liaison Pasquini addressed the Commission regarding some minor adjustments to the Sustainability Plan after meeting with Department heads.

### **8. Staff Report**

Staff Liaison Pasquini gave an update on composting. He informed the Commission that there will be preliminary discussion and plans between staff and the Board regarding what direction they would like to go. These discussions will take place in June and Staff Liaison Pasquini will update the Commission when that happens.

Staff Liaison Mendoza informed the Commission that the Public Works Director is leaving and Staff Liaison Mendoza will be taking on most of the work load interim. He informed the Commission that any questions should be directed to Staff Liaison Mendoza in interim.

**9. Comments from the Public**

Lincolnwood Resident, Tom (NEED LAST NAME) from Laport Avenue made a few suggestions regarding the Valley Line Trail Clean Up. He believes more flyers should be posted specifically for Skokie and Chicago to get more people. There are also residents from Skokie and Chicago that use the trail as well. He suggested posting a sign at Devon and/or Pratt Ave. Also, atop the Touhy Avenue bridge so more people are aware and can participate. He also suggested garbage cans or totes should be available at Devon and Pratt avenues at the end of trail.

**10. Adjournment**

Commissioner Suri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Commissioner Mohammed seconded the motion.

Upon roll call the results were:

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

NAYES: None

The motion passed.

By: Matt Pasquini, Management Analyst