



**Village of Lincolnwood Environmental Commission Meeting  
Village Hall Council Chambers  
Thursday, August 18, 2022  
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  
Tabassum Qurashi, Commissioner  
Amreena Suri, Commissioner  
Jonathan Powell, Commissioner  
Bridget O'Callaghan Gjokaj, Commissioner

**Members Absent**

Sharon Mau, Commissioner  
Nashra Mohammed, Commissioner  
Atour Sargon, Trustee

A quorum was present.

**Others Present**

Brendon Mendoza, Staff Liaison  
Matthew Pasquini, Staff Liaison  
Jean Ikezoe-Halevi, Trustee

**3. Approval of Minutes from the May 23, 2022, Environmental Commission Meeting**

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

Upon roll call the results were:

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

NAYES: None

The motion passed.

#### **4. Chairperson Report**

##### **a. Board Meeting**

Chairperson Ahmed informed the commission that during Tuesday's Board meeting, the Commission was formally reduced to seven (7) members. There are currently six (6) members.

##### **b. Lincolnwood Fest**

Chairperson Ahmed updated the Commission on the success of the Environmental Commission booth at Lincolnwood Fest.

##### **c. GRC Environmental Committee**

Chairperson Ahmed attended the GRC Environmental Committee meeting via zoom that is run by Edith Makra, Director of Environmental Initiatives, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Chairperson Ahmed informed the Commission that during the meeting a mapping system software tool was introduced to map items such as heat islands. Chairperson Ahmed suggested that when the Sustainability Plan is completed, it would be beneficial to hire a consultant who can use the same tools to be able to detect such things as heat islands.

##### **d. Key Environmental Dates**

Chairperson Ahmed informed the Commission of key environmental dates happening in the next few months.

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

##### **a. PFAS in Water**

Commissioner Powell would like to discuss the matter of PFAS in the water. Commissioner Powell stressed concern that it is an issue that needs to be addressed as it concerns the Village's drinking water. Commissioner Powell suggested reaching out to the City of Evanston to see how they are handling the situation. Staff Liaison Mendoza informed the Commission that a discussion concerning PFAS will be included on the agenda for the next meeting. Staff Liaison Mendoza will also reach out to the City of Evanston to see if their staff can attend to discuss PFAS.

##### **b. Rain Barrels**

Commissioner Suri inquired if the commission could look into starting an initiative to provide rain barrels or information on how to obtain rain barrels. Commissioner Suri requested that if we cannot offer rain barrels for free, then possibly a discount. Staff Liaison Mendoza informed the Commission that he will look into how the Village of Skokie is handling rain barrels.

#### **6. New Business**

##### **a. Fall Clean Up**

Chairperson Ahmed brought up having a second cleanup event and asked the Commission if they would be on board with having a second cleanup event. The Commission agreed and decided to have the second cleanup event on the second part of the Union Pacific Path, which would be from Lincoln to Devon. Chairperson Ahmed suggested hosting the cleanup the weekend after National World Clean Up Day, which would be Sunday, September 18, 2022, from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Staff Liaisons Mendoza and Pasquini will assist in creating flyers and posting the information through the Village's communications.

## **7. Old Business**

### **a. Oaktoberfest**

Commissioner Qurashi presented the updated Oaktoberfest poster to the Commission. Chairperson Ahmed would like to post flyers at Village Hall as well as the library and schools. The Commission agreed on printing approximately 10 flyers by the next meeting in September and to post those flyers during the first week of October.

Chairperson Ahmed discussed the table set up at Oaktoberfest. Commissioner Powell will have a table with solar power, Commission O'Callaghan Gjakaj will have a table for Lincolnwood in Bloom.

Chairperson Ahmed spoke with Staff Liaison Pasquini regarding QR Codes. Staff Liaison Pasquini informed the Commission that he was responsible for last year's QR codes and will create them again for this year.

Chairperson Ahmed went over the vendors that will be participating in the event.

Chairperson Ahmed brought up the idea of a calendar for Oaktoberfest. Chairperson Ahmed asked the Commission for ideas regarding a calendar. Chairperson Ahmed asked if it was possible to have something ready with environmental dates for 2023 in time for Oaktoberfest. Commissioner Qurashi informed the Commission that there is enough time to create a calendar. Commissioner Qurashi will send design options for The Commission's input. Chairperson Ahmed asked Staff Liaison Mendoza if there is money in the budget. Staff Liaison Mendoza informed The Commission that there are some funds in the budget.

Chairperson Ahmed informed the Commission that Collective Resource has reached out and was inquiring if it was possible to create an article to be printed in the Village newsletter. Staff Liaison Mendoza clarified that information pertaining to compost would be permissible but any advertisement for the company itself would not be.

### **b. Sustainability Plan**

Chairperson Ahmed opened the discussion regarding the Municipal Operations and Sustainable Communities sections of the Sustainability Plan. Chairperson Ahmed stated that at the following meeting in September they will discuss the Waste and Water sections. Chairperson Ahmed also stated that in November they will summarize what was discussed in preparation to present to the Board.

Chairperson Ahmed questioned how the process would work in presenting to the Board. Staff Liaison Mendoza informed the Commission that after they review all sections, Staff Liaison Pasquini and himself will tie it all together based on the Commission's input and priorities to then bring a draft sustainability plan to the Board for their review. Chairperson Ahmed asked Staff Liaison Mendoza for a time frame. Staff Liaison Mendoza informed the Commission that it would likely be around February or March depending on when it would be able to be on the Village Board's agenda.

Chairperson Ahmed brought up the idea of creating a logo that identifies the Environmental Commission. Commissioner Qurashi presented a logo that she had created previously and is volunteering to create a logo for the Environmental Commission.

**8. Staff Report**

**a. Introduction of Matthew Pasquini**

Staff Liaison Mendoza introduced Matthew Pasquini, as the new Management Analyst for Public Works.

**9. Comments from the Public**

None.

**10. Adjournment**

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Commissioner Suri seconded the motion.

Upon roll call the results were:

AYES: Commissioners Powell, O’Callaghan Gjokaj, Qurashi, Suri, and Ahmed

NAYES: None

The motion passed.

By: Brendon Mendoza, Assistant to the Public Works Director