

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021  
MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
VILLAGE HALL 6101 CAPULINA, MORTON GROVE, IL 60053**

Pursuant to proper notice in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the regular meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Commission was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairperson Georgianne Brunner. Secretary Jacqueline Meracle called the role.

Commissioners Present: Brunner, Hoffman, Karp, Schultz, Tag

Commissioners Absent: Corelli, Laliwala, Noormohamed, Pietron

Village Staff Present: Teresa Hoffman Liston, Ralph Czerwinski

Chairperson Brunner proceeded to seek approval of the October 5, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Schultz moved to approve the minutes of October 5, 2021. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion.

Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote.

Staff Reports

Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski presented the following report:

**Staff Report - Sustainability Goals & Progress – November, 2021**

<b>Water Strategies</b>	<b>Long-term Goals</b>		
	Educate user about water conservation		
	Reduce Village-wide water consumption by 10% by 2026		
	Regularly exercise water main valves		
	Continue to incorporate one water & sewer related sustainable project annually in capital improvement projects		
	<b>2021 Goals</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Completion</b>
	Sensus Analytics Water Meter Software Upgrade	New system now working side-by-side existing meter reading system	December 2021
	Lining Water Supply Line – Harlem Ave. Phase 2	Completed to Crain Street and Harlem Avenue	Completed
	Lining of Watermain – 800 ft (Albert Ave.)	Completed on 5/14/2021	Completed
	Water Main Replacement – 2,300 ft (Main Street)	Work Started on 8/30/2021	November, 2021
	Aquify Water Main Monitoring Program	No new reporting from other Villages participating in the program	Ongoing
	Annual System Leak Survey	Bidding in February	March, 2022
	Emerson & Capri Sewer Separation	Completing Design Comments, Searching funding sources	TBD
	Annual Sewer Lining Program – Contract No. 1-Churchill Av.	Lining Complete on Churchill	Completed
	Annual Sewer Lining Program – Contract No. 2	Lining started on 10/20/2021	November 2021

Air Strategies	<b>Long-term Goals</b>		
	Provide education about improving and protecting air quality		
	Promote and improve public transit options		
	<b>Improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure – Oakton Street Sidewalk Project (Safe Routes to School)</b>		
	<b>2021 Goals</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Completion</b>
	Civic Center Public Electric Car Charging Station	Charging Station was completed on 9/15/2021	Completed
	Electric Car Charging Stations at Sawmill Station	2 Installed – 4 coming in the future	2021- 2022
	Pace new rapid transit service – Pulse on Dempster St	2 Relocations of Pace Shelters	Dec. 2021
	Evaluate Village Vehicles – reduce emissions	Adding Hybrids/Electric to future list	Ongoing

Energy Strategies	<b>Long-term Goals</b>		
	Provide education about improving energy conservation and alternate energy source opportunities		
	<b>Continue Green Electric Aggregation Program with Renewal Energy Credits (REC)</b>		
	Streetlight Bulb Replacement with LED bulbs Energy Use Reduction		
	Municipal Facilities - Green Practices - LED bulbs - power usage controls - infrastructure upgrades for energy conservation		
	<b>2021 Projects</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Completion</b>
	Grant Application Waukegan Rd – Streetlights to LED	Under Review-No Report	Ongoing
	Fire Sta. 4 Generator Rpl. /Fuel Conversion to Nat. Gas.	Continue with bidding in 2021 Generator lead-time availability issue.	March, 2022
	South Pumping Station VFD Motor/ Pump Replacement	Project cost increase. Moving project 2022	Budget Year, 2022

Land Strategies	<b>Long-term Goals</b>		
	Provide education about sustainable land use and land use strategies		
	Continue Parkway Tree Planting Programs		
	Continue Tree City Certification		
	Continue French Market Contract Implemented to Continue Framer's Market		
	<b>2021 Projects</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Completion</b>
	Pursue Transit Oriented Development	Planning	Ongoing
	Site Remediation – Development Sites	Planned	Ongoing
	Native Plantings at Sawmill	Planning	May 2021
	Plant 200 Parkway Trees	All Trees planted for 2021	May 5, 2021
	Enhance open space near Train Station	Planning	November 2021
	Tree City Certification –Year 20	MG Qualified & Certified for 2020	February 2021
	Updating of Parkway Tree Inventory	Tree Inventory available on Village website	Completed
	Safe Routes to School Grants	Planning / Status	Ongoing
	Oakton Street Pedestrian Facility Improvement Project.	Update of Letters of Support sent to Morton Grove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>received 140 signatures</li> <li>received 19 letters</li> </ul>	

Waste Strategies	<b>Long-term Goals</b>		
	Provide education about sustainable waste programs		
	Increase the diversion of waste from landfills		
	<b>2021 Projects</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Completion</b>
	Create a recycling instruction booklet	Organize with Commission	Open
	E-waste Collection & Shredding Event – Public Works This location provided better storage for cars waiting on Natchez Av. Program will continue at Public Works in May, 2022.	483 cars dropped off paper and e-waste during this successful event. Tonnage amount to follow from SWANCC	Completed
	Groot Annual Yard Waste/Food Scrap Subscription Program	26 Morton Grove residents are participating in the Groot 95 Gal and 65 Gal Yard Waste/Food Scrap Subscription program.	Ongoing
	Collective Resource Food Scrap Program	43 Morton Grove Residents are participating in the Collective Resource program to date.	Ongoing
	Evaluate Recycling – Clothing	Research Phase	Open
	Evaluate Recycling – Construction & Demolition	Research Phase	Open
	Evaluate Pumpkin Smash Event	Location of event – North End of Harrier Park	November 6, 2021

Special Event Strategies	<p><b>Pumpkin Smash – Saturday, November 6, 2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North end of Harrer Park</li> <li>• Smashing format in development.</li> </ul>
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Public Education will continue at all Strategy Levels with:  
 Social Media    Public Programs    School Engagement    Written Notices/Information

Commissioner Tag asked what the status of the streetlight bulb replacement was.

Administrator Czerwinski stated that this is a continuing effort.

Commissioner Schultz asked what specifically the budget funds earmarked for sustainability were going to.

Administrator Czerwinski stated that this was for commission activities, sewer lining and water main replacement, as well as planning and consulting for a greener village hall. Every time a capital improvement is discussed, sustainability is considered.

Commissioner Schultz asked if any report was obtained from the SWANCC board.

Corporation Counsel Liston stated she would follow-up on that and start adding it to the staff report.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if any dark skies or amber lighting was being considered.

Administrator Czerwinski stated that the most efficient option that is better for the environment is always considered and staff is obtaining more education on the dark skies process.

Commissioner Schultz stated there was a free consulting program for municipalities through Dark Skies Chicago.

### Events

Chairperson Brunner stated that the Pumpkin Smash event was forthcoming on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Corporation Counsel Liston stated that volunteers were needed for the event.

### Marketing and Publicity

Commissioner Schultz provided the commission with suggestions of articles for the future to complement existing programs. She also provided an example from the Niles Township report regarding the importance of leaving leaves.

Administrator Czerwinski stated that staff will provide further instruction on providing content for e-news vs what is expandable for the website.

### Other Business

Corporation Counsel Liston reviewed the following draft 2022 programs and events calendar:

Program/Event	Dates	Comments/notes
Earth Month Activities	April	
Passport for Greener Morton Grove	April	
Kids For Greener Morton Grove (bag design)	April-June	
<b>NEW:</b> Green Business Award Program	May- July	
2022 Expo	September	
Pumpkin Smash	November	

Corporation Counsel Liston noted that the recycling event was missing.

Commissioner Tag stated she would like to work on the Green Business Awards program.

Chairperson Brunner noted that Earth Hour takes place on March 26<sup>th</sup> and the commission should promote this.

Commissioner Schultz stated that May is composting awareness month and she would like to see Morton Grove join the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition, more education about composting, a compost weigh in event, and more data about what is composted in the Village. She would also like to see education about recycling that John Thill was referring to, similar to Lake Forest's "Bart the Cart" program.

Commissioner Karp asked if the commissioner could commit to hosting a table twice during the summer farmers' market in June and August – the opening session and prior to the Sustainability Expo to promote that event.

A discussion then ensued on the future of the French Market and areas of improvement.

Commissioner Schultz asked if the commission could work on developing a tree ordinance in 2022.

Chairperson Brunner stated that a proposed tree ordinance did not pass when she served as a trustee.

Corporation Counsel stated that the mission of commission was under the direction of the Mayor and staff would speak to him regarding this.

Commissioner Schultz mentioned that the Village of Kenilworth has a heritage tree program that the village can model after. She also noted the importance of having a "Leave the Leaves" program, complete streets, rain barrels, educating townhouses and condos about solar power and composting similar to what Wilmette has done, Bee City USA and monarch ([monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org)) protection programs, and Dark Skies lighting.

Commissioner Hoffman stated he is interested in hearing more on a tree ordinance and has heard interest from residents in this.

Chairperson Brunner then asked for any other comments. Hearing none, Commissioner Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Schultz.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm by unanimous voice vote.

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Minutes By: Jacqueline Meracle