

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2020  
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 by Chairperson Georgianne Bruner. Secretary Jacqueline Meracle called the role.

Commissioners Present: Brunner, Corelli, Hoffman, Laliwala, Lebeau, Maloney, Schultz

Commissioners Absent: Karp, Schmidt

Village Staff Present: Teresa Hoffman Liston, Ralph Czerwinski, Joe Dahm

Trustees Present: Janine Witko

Chairperson Brunner proceeded to seek approval of the September 1, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Maloney moved to approve the minutes of September 1, 2020. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Staff Reports

Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski presented part 1 of the Village's sustainability plan. He noted priority strategies in the areas of water, air, energy, land, and waste.

Commissioner Maloney asked if there was an ordinance that governed residential developments. He noted that certain developments are hurting the visual appeal of the neighborhood due to tree removal.

Mr. Czerwinski stated that there were controls on those type of things.

Commissioner LeBeau asked if there had ever been complaints about utilities removing tree limbs.

Joe Dahm, Public Works Director, stated that there have been complaints, but there is a very specific distance that foliage must be from wires and it is not the village's jurisdiction.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if there is any talk of what percentage of tree species could be native vs. nonnative.

Mr. Dahm stated staff can work with the arborist and research the inventory and report back on this.

Commissioner Schultz noted that the environmental impact of native plants is so positive. She asked how the goal of 1000 trees by 2030 came to be and how many trees are removed each year.

Mr. Dahm stated the goal is based on 100 trees per year which is conservative. The village does not remove healthy trees. He estimates there have been maybe 60 trees removed in the last 4 months.

Commissioner Schultz stated there are close to 200 trees removed every year based on the Public Works annual report and encouraged the goal to be changed to at least meet that canopy.

Mr. Dahm stated that trees are removed for different situations, and again the village does not remove healthy trees.

Commissioner Laliwala stated that more residents should be made aware of the 50/50 tree planting program and also what types of trees can be used on the rest of their property and asked how the village and the commission can provide that education.

Resident Sarah Tagg of 5447 Warren Street stated that measurable goals are important for a sustainability plan as well as regular assessments and evaluations.

Commissioner Maloney asked if it was part of village code that permeable surfaces are being used in the Sawmill Station development. He noted this is imperative.

Mr. Czerwinski stated this was not a part of the village code, but strategies like this are highly encouraged in new developments.

Commissioner Corelli asked what kind of salt the village was using.

Mr. Dahm stated that plain road salt was being used, but staff was looking into a biodegradable liquid as well as making efforts to use more even layers and less and less salt over the last 5 years.

Commissioner Schultz asked if there was any encouragement for LEED certification currently.

Mr. Czerwinski stated that the village currently did not provide funding for this.

Corporation Counsel Teresa Liston stated that as part of Planned Unit Developments, LEED guidelines are encouraged to be used.

Commissioner Schultz asked if there was a portion on the village website showing where to go to recycle electronics and partake in green demolition.

Mr. Dahm noted that there was.

Chairperson Brunner stated she would like to see links to clean energy resources, especially on the building department page for when people are looking for file permits.

Commissioner Schultz stated that pesticides and chemical usage should be added to the sustainability plan.

Commissioner Maloney asked if sometime in 2021 the arborist could give a “state of trees in Morton Grove” presentation.

### Old Business

Corporation Counsel Teresa Hoffman Liston reminded all commissioners to complete OMA certificates and Ethics statements if they had not yet done so.

Chairperson Brunner asked for any other business or discussion. Hearing none, Commissioner LeBeau moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Schultz. The motion was approved unanimously pursuant to a voice vote at 7:20 pm.

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Minutes By: Jacqueline Meracle