



1200 Wilmette Avenue
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

**MEETING MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY COMMISSION**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

VILLAGE HALL TRAINING ROOM – 2ND FLOOR OF WILMETTE VILLAGE HALL

Members Present: Chris Dunn, Chairman
Amanda Ault
Rebecca Boyd
April Cesaretti
Arthur Haut
Michael Kim
William Muno
Kenneth Parkhill

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: John Adler, Director of Community Development
Kate Amoruso, Assistant to the Director of Engineering & Public Works
Kate McManus, Planner II

Guests: Nathan Kebede, Linda Kurtz

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Dunn directed the Commission's attention to the draft minutes of the Environmental and Energy Commission meeting of January 23, 2019

Chairman Dunn called for a motion that the Commission approve the minutes as drafted. Commissioner Kim moved to approve and Commissioner Muno seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Dunn introduced a new commissioner, Ken Parkhill.

Chairman Dunn reiterated the Commission's decision to use the Niles sustainability plan as a template for Wilmette's sustainability plan, and reminded Commissioners that all members will review sections that were worked on individually by Commissioners outside of a meeting setting.

Chairman Dunn reported that he asked Commissioners Muno and Boyd to take the lead on creating a final discussion draft of the sustainability plan, to be completed by June, that would be used to help make substantive decisions on Commission recommendations to the Village Board.

IV. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Amoruso provided updates on the Village's new curbside composting program. Resident enrollment in the program has greatly increased since its rollout. Ms. Amoruso also informed the Commission about a recent Openlands grant submission to restore the areas around the Edens Expressway to prairie.

Ms. Amoruso updated the Commission on the Village's Neighborhood Storage Project, noting that the Village Board will review plans for all three storage sites in regards to tree removal, and the Park District will have public hearings regarding restoration requirements.

Ms. Amoruso also reported that the Village received more applications than expected for the RainReady program. 50 chosen applicants will be contacted to ensure understanding of and cooperation with the program.

Ms. McManus informed the Commission that the Village will likely receive a bronze designation from the SolSmart program, with only a few more items needed from the Village to progress to a silver designation.

V. GREENEST REGION COMPACT 2 – SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Boyd presented her draft of the Climate section for the sustainability plan. Commissioner Boyd identified emission reduction goals as being the most significant issue in this section, and she noted the need for the Village's energy usage data before setting specific emissions goals.

Commissioner Kim presented his draft of the Economic Development section for the sustainability plan. He highlighted objectives from the economy and policy sections that are achievable and have already been implemented in the Village. Commissioner Kim noted that the Niles Sustainability Plan did not include a separate section for Economic Development, instead they addressed economic issues throughout other chapters. Commissioner Kim suggested that the Commission take a similar approach for Wilmette's plan. Commissioner Kim outlined plans to work with the Wilmette Chamber of Commerce on future economic development goals.

Commissioner Cesaretti presented her draft of the Energy section for the sustainability plan. She reiterated the need for Village energy usage data and suggested the Village undertake an energy audit to identify consumption levels, which can be used to better inform future policies and procedures.

Former Commissioner Kurtz presented her draft of the Land section for the sustainability plan, which she began working on before her term on the EEC expired. She also reiterated the need for data to better inform future decisions in regards to land use. Ms. Kurtz noted that, while she is no longer a Commissioner, she intends to continue to assist the Commission by working on the Land section of the Sustainability Plan.

Chairman Dunn proposed the idea of hosting another community event at the Wilmette Library to gather public input on Village's draft Sustainability Plan.

Former Commissioner Kebede presented his draft of the Mobility section for the sustainability plan, which she began working on before her term on the EEC ended. Mr. Kebede focused on the steps the Village can take to reduce resident dependency on automobiles. Mr. Kebede acknowledged his need for support when it comes to establishing specific compliance procedures.

Mr. Adler discussed Staff's intentions of working with Commissioners Boyd and Muno on the draft of the Municipal Operations section for the sustainability plan.

Commissioner Ault presented her draft of the Sustainable Communities section for the sustainability plan. She discussed the impact of home teardowns on sustainability and asked Village staff for guidance on understanding the Village's zoning guidelines and policies. Commissioner Ault then discussed the issue of encouraging sustainable food production, and revising certain Village ordinances that prohibit beekeeping and livestock.

Commissioner Haut presented his draft of the Waste & Recycling section for the sustainability plan. Using data provided by the Village, he studied annual trends of the volume of waste collected in the Village, and noted a consistent reduction in total refuse year after year. He emphasized the need for an educational program that is inclusive of all Wilmette residents to teach about the various recycling programs and their benefits.

Commissioner Muno presented his draft of the Water section for the sustainability plan. He recommended that the Village take a more active role in the Lake Michigan Partnership, continue ongoing water treatment and testing procedures, furthering storm water storage projects, and expanding the RainReady program.

The Commissioners discussed how recommendations made to the Village Board will be enforced, i.e. possible incentives and penalties. Incentives had more support from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Cesaretti had questions as to how all sections of the Sustainability Plan will be included in the discussion draft created by Commissioners Boyd and Muno. Commissioner

Cesaretti also inquired as to which members of the public will be included in the process, and what roles they will have.

Chairman Dunn responded that Commissioners Boyd and Muno will serve in a more administrative role rather than a decision-making role. Final decisions and recommendations will be made by the Commission as a whole.

The Commissioners discussed the length of the drafting process, how often the Commission will meet going forward, what possible benchmarks can be set. The Commissioners agreed that public meeting time would be devoted to each chapter to facilitate collaboration from all Commissioners. Once the Commission approves a draft Sustainability Plan, public input will be sought, and final recommendations would then be delivered to the Village Board.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Glennemeier thanked the Commission for their work on this agenda.

Nancy Hoying offered support from the League of Women Voters for this undertaking.

Marsha Heeter, representing Go Green Wilmette, also offered support for the Sustainability Plan. She invited the Commissioners to attend an upcoming Go Green workshop pertaining to solar power in religious facilities.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dunn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kim moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Muno seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alex Arteaga
Management Analyst, Department of Engineering & Public Works