

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**November 29, 2017
7:00 P.M.
Village Hall Board Room
40 East Center Avenue**

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Village of Lake Bluff Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee (SEC) met on November 29, 2017 in the Village Hall Board Room (40 E. Center Avenue) at 7:00 p.m. and the following members were present:

2. Roll Call

Present: Brian Rener, Co-Chair
 Marina Carney Puryear, Co-Chair
 Jill Danly
 Anne Sorensen
 Liz Leutwiler
 Nan Patterson

Absent: Emmet Brady

Also Present: Glen Cole, Assistant to the Village Administrator (AVA)
 John Scopelliti, Administrative Intern (AI)

3. Consideration of the July 15, 2017 Sustainability and Community Enhancement Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Rener moved to approve the July 15, 2017 SEC Meeting Minutes. Member Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Consideration of the October 25, 2017 Sustainability and Community Enhancement Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Rener moved to approve the October 25, 2017 SEC Meeting Minutes. Member Sorensen seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Non-Agenda Items and Visitors (Public Comment)

Co-Chair Rener stated that the SEC allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the SEC on any matter not listed on the agenda.

There were no requests to address the SEC.

6. Order of the Meeting

A member from the public suggested the committee start the meeting off with general business C (Chicken and Bees Pilot program review and recommendation) instead of staying with the agenda. Following a brief discussion, the committee decided to stay with the

original agenda for the meeting out of respect for the guest speakers. It was a unanimous decision by the committee.

7. General Business

A. A Discussion with Howard Bennett Regarding Community Gardens

AI Scopelliti introduced the items in front of the committee and then gave a summary of the previous SEC meeting. AI Scopelliti then introduced Howard Bennett, who was talking to the committee about Community Gardens.

Howard Bennett approached the podium and explained his experience with the first year of the community garden. Mr. Bennett explained how he had bought a lot in Lake Bluff that was originally going to be used for investment purposes but decided to instead start a community garden for the time being. Mr. Bennett stated he would give a brief overview, things that went well and things that did not go well, how the Village assisted him, and what they plan to do in the future.

The community garden consisted of 16 families. The Village of Lake Bluff supplied two 500-gallon buckets to collect water to irrigate the lot. Also, the Village supplied soil and woodchips. The community garden has a limited lifespan due to the Mr. Bennett's future plans for the lot. Mr. Bennett is willing to lead any committee or any ideas for another community garden going forward.

Co-Chair Puryear asked if all 16 families were planning on coming back next year.

Mr. Bennett said that 15 families plan to come back again.

Co-Chair Puryear asked if they were accepting applications for the 16th position.

Mr. Bennett stated that they have garnered interest in the community and are trying to figure out a way to increase the amount of families for the community garden.

Co-Chair Puryear asked how many people would be interested if there were no limitations.

Mr. Bennett stated that there is a distinction between interest and participation. Many people are interested, but when it comes time to do the work to keep a community garden up to par, people start to wander away. He believes the garden could double the amount of people, but it's hard to tell who will follow through. Some people using the community garden wished they had more than one plot.

Member Patterson asked what his plan was for fencing and keeping out deer.

Mr. Bennett stated they weren't using any fencing but people were being unique with how to keep the deer away. He also stated that the rabbits were worse compared to the deer.

Co-Chair Renner asked if they made any rules in regards to use of chemicals or fertilizers.

Mr. Bennett stated it was an organic garden so no chemicals were allowed.

Co-Chair Renner asked about the geography and accessibility for those that participated in the community garden.

Mr. Bennett stated the farthest participant was four to five blocks away from the garden. He clarified that the whole point of this garden was to educate the children.

Member Leutwiler applauded Mr. Bennett and the participants for making this community garden happen. She stated this was very inspiring and explained she walked her dogs by the garden many times seeing the children painting bird houses and picking weeds.

Member Patterson asked what types of cost were involved with the community garden.

Mr. Bennett explained that the cost involved was the wood to create the garden beds and the organic soil from DK Organics. He stated it cost each participant \$115.00 per plot. He stated each person was in charge of their seeds and what they wanted to grow.

Once Mr. Bennett was finished talking, AVA Cole approached the podium to summarize the talk and how it related to the goals of the committee. AVA Cole stated the village's zoning code isn't built to allow these types of projects to exist. AVA Cole stated that if this type of program is something you would like to promote then both the committee and village staff need to visit the zoning code for a possible change.

B. A Discussion with Fire Chief David Graf Regarding Fire Prevention Tips for Holiday Season

AI Scopelliti introduced Fire Chief David Graf, who was presenting to the committee the topic of Fire Prevention as the holiday season approaches.

Fire Chief David Graf approached the podium and greeted the committee then started his presentation. Fire Chief Graf explained the following topics: candle fires, holiday lights, Christmas tree safety, fireplace safety, holiday cooking, and fire prevention tips for apartment buildings. Fire Chief Graf gave many examples of incidents that occurred in the village that related to the topics being presented.

Co-Chair Renner asked about the proper disposal method of a half-full or empty fire extinguisher.

Fire Chief Graf stated that residents should look at their fire extinguishers and make sure none are currently subject to a current safety recall that affects many residential extinguishers. The Lake Bluff Fire Department will properly dispose fire extinguishers for residents.

C. Chicken and Bees Pilot Program Review and Recommendation

AVA Cole approached the podium to start talking about the Chicken and Bees Pilot Programs. He expressed that he would present a summary of how the program was received by the Committee-of-the-Whole (COW). Also, AVA Cole mentioned that both AI Scopelliti and he collected pictures and a video from an hour before the meeting in Deerfield to view a resident's home currently raising chickens. The COW expressed how appreciative they were to the committee for their work over the past year. There was a quote from the COW stating, "We were overwhelmed by your thoroughness." AVA

Cole mentioned both Co-Chair Puryear and Co-Chair Rener did a great job but the COW still had some questions and request for more clarity. The two areas of question were if the committee had addressed the possible environmental impact for the village and how the success of this pilot program would be measured moving forward. AVA Cole stated that the text of the pilot programs had been expanded by staff and are now in front of the SEC committee.

Co-Chair Rener requested we open up for discussion and review pictures from AVA Cole and AI Scopelliti field trip, then open the floor for public comment. A brief discussion followed.

AVA Cole started presenting the pictures taken from the field trip and explaining the setup these chicken owners have in their backyard.

Co-Chair Rener asked AVA Cole to explain how the Deerfield backyard chicken program has been going. A brief discussion followed.

Once the discussion concluded regarding the Chicken Keeping pilot program, Co-Chair Rener opened it up for public comment.

Frank Swanton, 363 Vincent Court, approached the podium to state his comments/concerns. Mr. Swanton is concerned with various points: the objection process from a neighbor's standpoint, the location of chicken coops in relation to an individual's lot line, and an inspection at the beginning of construction and at the renewal process after one year. Also, Mr. Swanton stated the importance of making sure these individuals are inspected to make sure they are disposing of the chicken feces appropriately. A brief discussion followed.

Once the discussion concluded regarding the Chicken Keeping pilot program, Co-Chair Puryear requested a motion to approve recommending the ordinance, as amended, to the Committee-of-the-Whole. Member Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

D. Upcoming Meetings and Possible Cancellation of December 27, 2017 Meeting

AVA Cole mentioned to the committee that AI Scopelliti will be receiving more and more responsibilities for this committee moving forward. AVA Cole wanted to address future dates and items of interest for future meetings as the holiday's approach.

8. Village Staff Report

AVA Cole mentioned an event the committee will be invited to within the next month. AI Scopelliti mentioned he would like to start gathering topics to emphasize in the sustainability plan. Also, he would like to start gathering possible presentation topics for the January meeting.

Co-Chair Puryear and Member Leutwiler mentioned they would both like to hear about the recycling programs for both Jewel-Osco and Heinen's Grocery Store.

9. Member's Report

Member Leutwiler mentioned the Lake Bluff Open Lands newsletter that she wrote an article in but talked about this couple, who visited the Lake Forest bookstore, who has written a

couple books about native and invasive plants. Member Leutwiler talked about how these books explain the different alternatives people can consider when working on their landscaping in their yard. Also, Member Leutwiler expressed how this book explains the benefits of native and non-invasive species.

10. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Puryear attended the meeting at the Botanic Garden called Toxic Puzzle by Dr. Paul Cox. Co-Chair Puryear stated the video was fascinating and recommend it to the rest of the committee.

Co-Chair Rener had the opportunity to present at the Deerpath Middle school about extreme weather. Co-Chair Rener described the guest speaker that will be present at the SEC February meeting.

11. Adjournment

As no further business came before the SEC, Co-Chair Rener moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40p.m. Co-Chair Puryear seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Scopelliti
Administrative Intern