

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

**June 27, 2018
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 June 27, 2018 in the Village Hall Board Room (40 E. Center Avenue) at 7:05 p.m. and the following members were present:

2. Roll Call

Present: Marina Carney Puryear, Co-Chair
Brian Rener, Co-Chair
Leslie Bishop
Emmet Brady
Nan Patterson
Anne Sorensen

Also Present: Glen Cole, Assistant to the Village Administrator (AVA)
Jake Terlap, Streets & Utility Superintendent (SUS)
Bob Hertel, Village Arborist (VA)

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

Co-Chair Puryear 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.

4. Order of the Meeting

There were no requests to change the order of business.

5. General Business

A. Stakeholder Workshop for Corridor Beautification Study

Before starting the stakeholder workshop, AVA Cole informed the committee that Member Liz Leutwiler has resigned from the SEC effective immediately. A brief discussion commenced.

AVA Cole informed the committee about the goal of this workshop and introduced the representatives present at the meeting.

Jodi Mariano asked for details about any upcoming IDOT, LCDOT projects based on the parcel ownership map.

An IDOT representative (black shirt) stated that there is a pump station overhaul, and will be

expressed in a November newsletter. A brief discussion commenced.

SUS Terlap explained the stormwater situation in town. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Puryear asked if this pump station will move flooding downstream into the Skokie River.

Cliff Miller stated that was how stormwater management works.

An IDOT representative explained the 176/41 interchange study and that there is no funding for this project right now.

Cliff Miller asked if there was an IDOT pump station drawing yet?

An IDOT representative responded by saying no there is not any drawings yet of the pump station.

A LCDOT representative stated that there is a RFP for consultant in regards to a bike path signage study corridor countywide. He explained that this started as a wayfinding signage project and has evolved into something much larger. The LCDOT representative stated that they have started teaming with villages, forest preserves, and park districts, to create some possible branding for each path.

Jodi Mariano asked about the connections and the LCDOT land west of the train tracks.

An IDOT representative stated that they have started clearing understory along the bike path up to and past arbor lane, specifically clearing brush and native woodlands.

Rob Douglass wanted clarification about the Skokie river corridor because he was curious as to if that deals with the army corps of engineers.

Jodi Mariano was curious as if there was a mechanism in place for the Village to review.

An IDOT representative stated we put natives in the ROW since it is a federal mandate. He stated that there is 15 feet of mowing area and the rest is for pollinator plants.

Co-Chair Rener stated that this is the goal of this plan which is to create a scheme and/or a playbook, which we can share with outside governmental agencies in order to cooperate smoothly.

For the record, the SEC is not trying to do spot projects but instead is trying to create an overall theme throughout the village.

Cliff Miller asked AVA Cole if we knew about this situation and AVA Cole stated no we just saw it.

Jodi Mariano asked around the table if there are any restrictions.

SUS Terlap stated that we're a small crew so we would request plants that require low maintenance, are drought tolerant and salt tolerant, and they can't be delicate.

Co-Chair Rener stated that this is why we're looking for a theme; areas approached to salt, etc. so these groups can just work within a template and be in line with our standards. He stated that open lands is doing great work and that we should make a similar process for other groups.

Member Bishop asked if pedestrian walkways are always included in the overall plan.

Jodi Mariano stated that this is not really tasked within new walkways, bike paths but those should certainly be continuous. She stated that this is not a walkability or bike plan.

Jodi Mariano started talking about view sheds.

Co-Chair Puryear talked about Sunrise Park, and any other locations along the lakefront.

Member Sorensen stated that the pond along the southern blocks of the bike path and Sheridan Road.

Larry McCotter stated that there is no reference to LBOLA on this map. He stated that LBOLA accounts for 200 acres and has performed much of the work talked about in front of us tonight. Larry McCotter stated that the pond is LBOLA's first wetlands preserve. He stated that the Buckthorn is gone, the snapping turtles, all restored. Larry McCotter wants to draw everyone's attention to the Skokie River Reserve, which is 35 acres just south of Route 176 and the JAWA water plant. Lake County Forest Preserve consists of 70 acres, which LBOLA manage. He stated that the ownership is about to be resolved from the state of IL & Forest Preserve. Larry McCotter invited everyone to come July 1, to take a nature walk, and look at a phenomenal example of where we want to go. He stated that we are all on board with native plants; the Village of Lake Bluff, IDOT, and the Garden Club. Larry McCotter expressed that the SEC has twice unanimously approved such a plan in this area and should be extended by Teska and Cliff Miller. He reminded everyone to come take a nature walk on July 1 at 2:00pm at the Skokie Land and Water Preserve. Larry McCotter stated the IDNR name distinguishes it. He emphasized that we want recognition here, and that we have the template for where this group wants to go.

Jodi Mariano asked what challenges have LBOLA been facing regarding maintaining those areas.

Larry McCotter stated that they have been facing issues with gaining support from the village. He stated that he wants to extend the Rockland wetlands west to the Skokie River. Larry McCotter expressed the idea of opening up a river vista to the north and that a village pond can all be beautiful and colorful wetland instead of monoculture. He stated that all we need is support from the village and that everyone knows the SEC has tried to do that.

Jodi Mariano stated that the importance of the removal of buckthorn to promote views, and native plantings.

Larry McCotter stated 10 acres in last year.

Jodi Mariano explained the existing landscape pallet. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Puryear explained the McKinley Road and Sheridan Road view is fantastic because of the garden.

Co-Chair Rener talked about corridors and the importance of creating a theme when coming down Route 176. He asked how anyone knows that this is a destination because it is essentially a path. Co-Chair Rener stated that we want to give the general impression, like that's the way you do it in such and such area and maybe different in different areas. He was curious if the signs should be uniform, if there should be different landscape in different areas, and to confirm that these are incremental projects, so we would want to have guideposts.

Cliff Miller stated that what we're trying to do today when we talk about settings is that we've moved

beyond that but want to make rhythm. He expressed that each corridor has its own window. Cliff Miller explained that South coming North on Green Bay road is tough to do prairies and stuff due to the Harrison house and such very little room to work with. Cliff Miller expressed that buckthorn is on each side of road, which is private property and people want privacy from sidewalks. He stated that we want to develop rhythm that adapts to that, encompasses that, brings us to a point where everything in corridors can pass that criteria & guideline. Cliff Miller stated that formalized landscape may be best to go some places, wild and native in others but we want to show generally speaking that very concept.

Member Sorensen emphasized that part of our committee mission is to participate in this process and advise private homeowners that they don't need a wall of buckthorn. She stated that we are not forcing everyone to do the same thing but instead inform every one of the alternatives to create privacy screening.

Jodi Mariano stated that she wanted to hear more about that; types of guidelines to set forth, signage treatment, roadway section treatment, privacy screening, and other types that need to be addressed.

Cliff Miller asked types of what.

Jodi Mariano stated the typologies, signage, intersections, and privacy screenings.

Member Sorensen stated that as we have more of these rain events; we need to mitigate stormwater, and address the flow of water.

Jodi Mariano explained the best practices for stormwater. A brief discussion commenced.

Cliff Miller expressed that stormwater management starts at your own house and that's always been the pass-it-on-down problem. He stated that we need to talk to people about bringing it back up because there are several wetlands in this corridor. Cliff Miller stated that the education side of this is secondary to our goal but certainly part of it.

Co-Chair Rener expressed the importance of the tree ordinance and suggested trees to use around town. He believes it would be great to develop a playbook for residents, consisting of wonderful photos, sketches, and lists of plants available that make sense.

Co-Chair Puryear expressed the importance of bio swales, rain gardens, and other things that can help.

Rob Douglas explained the plant species and native species thought to consider what they are, they draw different kinds of birds and wildlife lost because the native plants are gone.

An individual present at the meeting, who is a landscape architect and member of LBOLA and LBGC. She designed things in Lake Forest, Forest Park and developing plant palette with them.

Co-Chair Rener stated that the SEC list of priorities that have been developed and pesticides and fertilizer are on that list. A brief discussion commenced.

Cliff Miller stated that we need an adopt-a-highway sign for an individual's husband present at this meeting.

Co-Chair Rener stated that the Village's sustainability efforts have significantly reduced landfill

waste. He stated that we are leading towns in Lake County in how much we recycle and divert.

Jodi Mariano requested that the group refocus. She stated that we don't want to forget that most of these are in IDOT, LCDOT jurisdiction. Jodi Mariano asked if anyone has heard anything that's a red flag, mindful of for permitting.

An IDOT representative stated that if there's going to be a future road project, we'd have to remove some money in the ROW.

Co-Chair Renner stated that we need to communicate.

SUS Terlap emphasized that IDOT communicates with us and so does the Village.

Co-Chair Puryear emphasized that this all goes back to education and we need to know that's an IDOT focus.

An IDOT representative started talking about adopt-a-highway efforts. A brief discussion commenced.

A LCDOT representative wrote down a couple things about agreements and stated that there is not much else to add besides the importance of safety and two feet clear zone on bike path.

Cliff Miller talks about safety issues, balancing seeing-in vs. not feeling like you're on Sheridan Road.

Larry McCotter stated we need to consider costs and cost sustainability.

Jodi Mariano mentioned the LBOLA 176 project. A brief discussion commenced.

Rob Douglass stated that there is an opportunity for education, camp kids, walking through those areas but we don't know if that could be incorporated into this. He stated that obviously on Sheridan Road, by the school, schoolkids did things.

Jodi Mariano stated that this is not a difficult task to format these things into a brochure or flyer, and share with various groups.

Co-Chair Renner stated that he is unsure if the committee agrees. He stated that this could be a booklet for a master plan, planting list, theme, which is the product we want to see.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that she is in favor of the opportunity to get that information, but don't know that the SEC should be in favor of a printed piece. She stated that a digital version may be more appropriate.

A representative from LBOLA supported the statements that Ron Salski proposed with the preschool through the park district have done little things in Rockland wetlands. This representative went into detail about the amount of service they have received from volunteers all across the Village in the past along with what his vision is moving forward 20 years from now.

Co-Chair Renner stated that part of our mandate is a larger educational outreach with the schools, all the things involved in beekeeping, community gardens, chickens, biking, carbon emissions, etc. He stated that this is a long list of things to partner with other districts to provide education & participation.

Jodi Mariano stated that she has nothing else to talk about.

Cliff Miller stated that he was glad we could come here and go over the broader picture. He stated that now the work starts which means we now will have something you can put your hands on and use. Cliff Miller expressed some concepts and ideas for the next meeting. He stated that we need to unify and make sure people are on the same page. He stated that stakeholders, landowners, garden club members, and LBOLA volunteers that have put 1000 hours of service into this village are what make this community special and we need to make it look and known to be special. Cliff Miller wants to develop a framework rather than this plan goes there and he wants to make a process for issues to be resolved and follow that simplistic guideline.

As no further discussions commenced, Co-Chair Rener invited some people to leave so the committee could finish their meeting by addressing the remaining items on the agenda.

B. Future Work Plans

Co-Chair Rener expressed his interest in talking about the future work plans. A brief discussion commenced.

Member Bishop expressed the importance of individual education on landscaping for stormwater in our village. She stated that this could help residents decrease flooding around the terraces especially, where the yards are larger and can accommodate these programs.

Co-Chair Rener expressed that the Village Engineer, Jeff Hansen, has already come in front of this committee to talk about stormwater, where he stated that the soils are not so permeable due to a high level of clay in our soils. He stated that the Village Engineer, Jeff Hansen, mentioned the idea of detention and retention for properties. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that Cliff Miller is looking at ways to hold water.

Member Sorensen stated that this idea is definitely on the list and is still being developed and researched. A brief discussion commenced.

6. Village Staff Report

AVA Cole had nothing to report.

7. Member's Report

None of the members had anything to report.

8. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Rener explained some type of concrete that captures carbon and was curious if we can do more environmentally-friendly than with public works since they use coal tars and sealants. He created a crosstalk about pervious concrete to possibly work with. A brief discussion commenced.

Member Bishop expressed to the committee that the City of Highwood is a good example of a town with bike paths set up on roads. She stated that it was very nicely marked. A brief discussion commenced.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John Scopelliti
Administrative Intern