

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

**August 29, 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 August 29, 2018 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: Marina Carney Puryear, Co-Chair
Brian Rener, Co-Chair
Sophie Twichell
Nan Patterson
Emma Johnson
Leslie Bishop

Absent: Anne Sorensen

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

3. Consideration of the May 30, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Member Patterson moved to approve the May 30, 2018 SEC Meeting Minutes. Co-Chair Puryear seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Consideration of the June 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Member Patterson moved to approve the June 27, 2018 SEC Meeting Minutes. Co-Chair Puryear seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

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

The Co-Chairs will allocate fifteen (15) minutes during this item for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee on any matter not listed on the agenda. Each person addressing the Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee is asked to limit their comments to a maximum of five (5) minutes.

There were no requests to address the SEC for items not on the agenda.

6. Order of the Meeting

The Co-Chairs will entertain requests from anyone present on the order of business to be

conducted during the Meeting.

There were no requests to change the Order of the Meeting.

7. General Business

a. Lake Bluff Garden Club plan for Washington Park

Deirdre Toner approached the podium to give her presentation on Washington Park to the committee. She is a landscape designer who is assisting the Lake Bluff Garden Club with their renovation of Washington Park. She stated how the goal of this renovation is to become more of a community park along with being more of a sustainable native plant park with color. Deirdre started her presentation with the mission statement, historical background, and timeline of projects for the Lake Bluff Garden Club. She also mentioned that both John Palenske, from Kinnucan Tree Experts and Landscape Company and herself were contacted by the Lake Bluff Garden Club for assistance in the renovation of Washington Park. She stated that the goal was to have more welcoming plants and a low maintenance palette of plants implemented into Washington Park. She stated that they were looking to start work in Washington Park in the Fall of 2018 and plan to finish by the Spring of 2019, depending on the future steps they need to take to have this plan approved. She stated that the Lake Bluff Garden Club wants to improve the curb appeal and they also want to create an area that sets up as a 'photo booth' area that individuals can use for graduation pictures and other special moments with family. Deirdre Toner explained the visual pictures she had prepared in her presentation to the committee.

Co-Chair Puryear asked a question regarding the grass being mowed and will it be fertilized because of the presence of dogs.

AVA Cole stated that Lake Bluff Public Works is not in charge of the maintenance.

John Palenske stated he was told by Jake Terlap, Public Works Superintendent, that Public Works has mowed the lawn for the last 15 years, but the Garden Club oversees all the other maintenance that occurs at Washington Park.

Co-Chair Puryear asked AVA Cole about the fertilizer regulations from the Village. AVA Cole stated that he would investigate the code.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that this is a true gift from the Lake Bluff Garden Club.

Member Bishop stated that Washington Park is such a joy to walk by in the fall and spring. She stated that she noticed the goal of this plan is to implement some community hours for volunteer maintenance.

Deirdre Toner stated that it is more to make Washington Park more resident-friendly and appealing.

Marietta Hance approached the podium to state that she was excited about possibly declaring this area as part of the 'playbook' that is being promoted by the Route 176 Corridor Beautification plan.

Member Bishop stated that she was curious about the location of both trash and

recycling receptacles.

Deirdre Toner stated that the location of these receptacles will be determined once the location of the new table will be confirmed along with once this plan is approved.

Member Twichell stated that it is wonderful to see a local park being revitalized and was curious about the idea of having this plant list interpreted and present at Washington Park.

Deirdre Toner stated that this would be a great addition to Washington Park because this would give some good educational information about the plant life existing in the park.

Marietta Hance explained the dimensions of the new table and stated that there would be many seats for individuals to sit at so that way classes can come visit Washington Park and have class and learn about the sustainable plants in the park along with learning where this table came from and the history of the tree that was used to make the table.

Member Twichell stated this is a great example to educate residents to understand what kinds of plants and maintenance can be done for a garden. She mentioned that maybe this information can be implemented into a website.

Deirdre Toner stated that this information can be integrated into a website and that was one of the intentions of the Garden Club.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that the notebook, created by Cliff Miller, that Deirdre Toner highlighted would also be a great addition to the website.

Deirdre Toner stated that the notebook, Forest Park/Lake Park Natural Areas Management Plan, should be on file somewhere at City of Lake Forest. She stated that it was a four-year study of the forest and bluff lands with what exists.

Member Patterson stated that this is a beautiful plan, but she was curious about Kinnucan doing the maintenance for a year, but she wanted to have a five-year plan established.

Deirdre Toner stated that she intends to make a four to five-year plan explaining the hours that will dedicated to Washington Park from all the stakeholders along with an analysis from of the site every year or every two years by a professional such as Cliff Miller or herself.

Member Twichell stated that she was interested if some of the hardscapes can be resembled by recycled materials.

Deirdre Toner stated that the idea of pavers would be interesting, but we need to look if it is possible within this plan.

Co-Chair Renner stated that he is interested in learning more about visibility from Sheridan Road and the possibility of a small entrance from Sheridan Road. He stated that he is very supportive of this plan and if there is a possibility of more seating because he believes this is going to be very popular. He stated that the accessibility to bicycle racks

at this location would be beneficial. He stated from a code perspective, that accessibility for individuals with disabilities can enjoy the garden.

Deirdre stated that the eastern side of the garden is planned to have casual groups of seating, but she stated that she would have to look at the ADA code and the accessibility to the benches.

Co-Chair Renner stated the importance of having accessibility for individuals with disabilities throughout this park.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that instead of using flagstone to create the path, maybe the possibility of permeable pavers can be implemented, which was promoted earlier by Member Twichell.

Co-Chair Renner stated that he was curious about the next steps for this plan and requested AVA Cole to explain the future steps and what should be addressed.

AVA Cole stated that it seems there are a couple things the committee is in favor of implementing in to the plan that needs to be accounted for before any vote is recorded. He stated the curiosity between the maintenance situation and the ADA requirements. He stated that he doesn't know if this group wants to take a vote on this plan now or have them come back and give another presentation.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that she had a question about procedure. She stated that was sensitive to planting time.

Co-Chair Renner stated that she is comfortable with the plan moving forward, but he wants the recommendations addressed.

John Palenske approached the podium and stated that the table would not be able to be installed until Memorial Day of next year, so we wouldn't have to worry about any ADA requirements until then. He stated that we will have the next couple of months to figure out the ADA solutions and that permeable covers will be used in this plan. He stated that if we could get the green light for planting and maintenance that would be great.

Co-Chair Renner stated he is fine with doing a Phase I and Phase II of this plan. He mentioned the idea of more seating would be beneficial for this park.

John Palenske stated that we are a little stretched with materials because we don't want to bring in more wood materials besides what is planned to be used already from the fallen Oak tree, which is mainly being used for the table.

Member Bishop stated that she was curious if any contact with the Village of Lake Bluff has been made regarding the removable benches. She stated that the idea of a portable bench creates a higher opportunity for theft.

John Palenske stated that through his conversations with the Village of Lake Bluff Village Administrator, Drew Irvin, he would like the benches to be permanently affixed to the ground, which then runs into issues with the ADA code.

Deirdre Toner stated that she was interested in if the committee could find out more information regarding the possible entrance from Sheridan Road and if this plan needs to get approved by Village Board.

Co-Chair Renner stated that we could vote on the plant materials and the boards for the north, west, and east, and leave the southern border to figure out ADA requirements, along with the water feature.

Member Bishop stated that the continual maintenance needs to be permanently implemented into this plan.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that the weed wacker needs to not be a clearing agent and more of legitimate maintenance tool. She stated that the education of village employees would be beneficial for what can be completely removed and what just needs to be trimmed back.

Member Johnson stated that many Lake Forest High School students are required to meet certain hours for volunteer opportunities such as buckthorn removal days through the Lake Bluff Open Lands Association. She stated that if this location becomes added to this list then you could expect around 25 students to be volunteering to pick weeds any given weekend, pending the weather.

Co-Chair Renner stated that in the future the possibility of installing solar lighting at Washington Park would be intriguing and beneficial for this location and the surrounding community.

Member Patterson stated that the maintenance issue needs to be addressed moving forward with this plan.

Marietta Hance stated that she was curious if we can get the okay to start Phase I of this plan.

Co-Chair Renner made a motion to approve the start of Phase I at Washington Park regarding planting and subject to seeing a maintenance plan that does not need to go in front of the SEC again but instead needs to be approved by the Village Administrator or Village Board. Member Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

AVA Cole stated that there will be a meeting tomorrow morning and that staff will discuss the steps moving forward. AVA Cole stated that he would have a sense of direction for the Garden Club by the end of the week.

b. **Draft Sustainability Plan**

AVA Cole explained the current draft of the Sustainability plan, which the committee had in front of them. AVA Cole explained the next steps for the Sustainability Plan moving forward.

Co-Chair Renner and Co-Chair Puryear stated that they were in favor of the organization of the plan. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that she was interested in moving some things around, specifically bioswales and rain barrels. She stated that this committee should encourage landscaping companies to not dump their debris down the ravine.

Member Bishop stated that she was curious between the we and the you. She stated that we need to explain ‘what the village will do’ and ‘what citizens will do’. She stated that she believes this needs to be defined if this plan gets drafted.

Member Patterson stated that she was interested in increasing the dog waste locations across the village.

Member Bishop explained the Conserve Lake County award and was curious if any of the members would be interested in developing a Conserve Lake Bluff award. She emphasized the importance of encouraging our children to walk to school.

Member Johnson expressed the current idling issues that occurring consistently at Lake Forest High School.

Member Bishop emphasized the promotion of owning re-usable bags. She stated that she was curious about the possibility of implementing a plastic bag usage tax. Member Bishop stated that she had a question regarding how many Lake Forest High School students buy a warm lunch or bring a lunch from home.

Member Johnson explained the current situation occurring at Lake Forest High School regarding students buying a warm lunch versus students bringing a lunch from home. She explained the existing compost plan that is occurring at Lake Forest High School. A brief discussion commenced.

Member Twichell expressed her interest in Waste Wednesday, which has not occurred in quite some time at the Lake Bluff Elementary School. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Rener stated that AVA Cole did a great job at explaining how waste is disposed of within the Village of Lake Bluff. He emphasized the importance of working with other advisory boards and committees. Co-Chair Rener expressed his interest in expanding on the pilot programs within the Sustainability Plan.

Member Bishop stated that she was curious about informing Lake Bluff residents about some sustainable practices that can be used when going on vacation along with when you are home. She stated that she was interested in learning about the possibility of tax savings for updating appliances with Lake Bluff homes. A brief discussion commenced.

c. **Bicycle Parking Improvements in the Central Business District**

AVA Cole explained the bicycle parking improvements in the central business district to the committee. He explained the different types of bicycle racks and the proposed locations of these racks in the Village.

AVA Cole explained the pictures that he had taken of the existing bike racks in the Village regarding their location, condition, accessibility, and usage.

AVA Cole explained to the committee the three best bicycle racks in the market right now. He stated that these bicycle racks are called the Inverted U, Post & Ring, and Corral.

Co-Chair Renner explained the beautification styles out there for these bicycle racks especially from the website that AVA Cole was using in his presentation to the committee.

Member Twichell stated that the south side of the train station is where bikes get stolen from quite often.

AVA Cole stated that removing bicycle racks from that location is a possibility.

Co-Chair Renner stated that he was curious about the idea of possibly deleting a parking space to then re-use as a bicycle rack location.

Member Bishop stated that she was curious if we knew any information on if bicyclists are willing to park their bikes and walk.

AVA Cole explained his bicycle rack locations PDF to the commission. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Renner emphasized the town to town paths and that we need to improve the paths that we have throughout the Village to give people accessibility to use these paths to access any area in the village; i.e. the opportunity to safely ride down to the beach.

AVA Cole mentioned the PCZBA has talked about the bicycle rack goals through the update of the comprehensive plan.

- d. **Proposed Date for next Corridor Beautification Study Workshop – October 3, 2018**
This agenda item was discussed in the Village Staff Report.

8. Village Staff Report

- a. **Solar Panel Zoning Amendment**

AVA Cole explained the solar panel zoning amendment to the committee and that it had a positive first hearing at the Village Board meeting on Monday, August 27, 2018. AVA Cole explained the new process put forth by the PCZBA. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Renner expressed the idea of possibly incentivizing building permit fees if the individual is going to implement green sustainable energy. A brief discussion commenced.

AVA Cole stated that the SEC's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2018, which will be the 2nd workshop for the Corridor Beautification Study with Jodi Mariano, Cliff Miller, and other stakeholders.

Co-Chair Renner stated that he was curious as to what the agenda would be for the October 3 meeting. AVA Cole mentioned a couple topics that may be of interest for the committee. A brief discussion commenced.

AVA Cole stated that Village staff will circulate dates for the next normal meeting, due to some members stating they will not be able to attend the October 3 meeting because of previous engagements.

9. Member's Report

There was no Member's Report.

10. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Renner expressed the excitement from their neighbor whose chicken laid their first egg last week. He stated that the family expressed it was the best egg they had ever had. Co-Chair Renner stated that there have been no issues with the chickens at all. A brief discussion commenced.

11. Adjournment

As no further business came before the SEC, Co-Chair Puryear moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Member Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Scopelliti
Administrative Intern