

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

**June 3, 2019**

**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 3, 2019 in the Village Hall Board Room (40 E. Center Avenue) at 7:01 p.m. and the following members were present:

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Marina Puryear, Co-Chair  
Leslie Bishop  
Anne Sorensen  
Sophia Twichell  
Emma Johnson

Absent: Nan Patterson  
Brian Rener, Co-Chair

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

**3. Consideration of the May 6, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Member Sorensen moved to approve the May 6, 2019 SEC Meeting Minutes. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**4. Non-Agenda Items and Visitors**

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.

Karon Wilcox, 41 West Sheridan Place, approached the podium. She stated that the Sustainability Plan had been brought to her attention via a Facebook posting. She stated that she read through the draft and she saw that there were some pages of what residents can do to address sustainable practices within the community. She stated that within the report, there are no costs provided, and she was curious as to if these types of ideas would make a difference in the Village. She stated that she wanted to know if the tax-payers are paying more, what it will be costing the residents.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that she wanted to know if Ms. Wilcox could give the committee an example of a topic she is interested in learning more about.

Ms. Wilcox stated that she is interested in the stormwater management portion of the sustainability plan. She stated that she couldn't attend the League of Women Voters session regarding stormwater management. She stated that she lives in the terraces and they encounter many problems there with stormwater, her house particularly deals with the stormwater drains always being full and overflowing onto her property. She stated that she has done a good amount of research on this issue and she is becoming more and more hopeless in her mind that this problem will ever be fixed. She stated that from what she read, home values drop 25%, based off a study completed for Cook County. She stated that Lake County has referenced this report as well on their website. She stated that right there is a major red flag, and she has had her home recently appraised, after she found this research, and it was quiet shocking to see that her home value had dropped by 25% indeed. She stated that when we are looking at the list of main importance for the Village like solid waste and energy conservation -- if home values are dropping she would appeal her taxes, her neighbors would appeal their taxes, and property values would go down. She stated that she understands solid waste management as the committee is trying to encourage people to recycle, but how is that affecting us as a community other than feeling good about it?

Co-Chair Puryear stated that we pay to have our garbage removed so therefore, on some level, which accounts for some part of our tax bill. She stated that Member Bishop can probably speak to this as well, but, we are reducing the amount that is going into the landfill, which we then charge less for the service so there should be a difference shown at some point, not immediately.

Member Twichell stated that we are running out of landfill space in Lake County.

Ms. Wilcox stated she was curious if there is somewhere that she can look to review these statistics.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that the best source would be SWALCO (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County). Ms. Wilcox asked if SWALCO will be charging the Village more down the road or are there ways to cut back on the cost to then pass down to the resident or would residents be charged more due to the premium of disposal. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Puryear asked Ms. Wilcox how long she has been a resident of Lake Bluff. She stated that she has been a resident for three years. Co-Chair Puryear stated that she was on the Village Board six years ago and they worked to change our waste management service from in-house at Lake Bluff to Groot. She stated that this was a cost reduction. She stated that this decision was one the Village made to try and become more fiscally responsible. Co-Chair Puryear stated that Member Twichell can speak to this but if you put in your recycling one piece of contaminated garbage, you have wrecked the entirety of everything collected and what anyone else has collected. Co-Chair Puryear stated that a lot of this education and that's what this committee is here for to educate the public and there are programs.

Member Twichell stated that you pay more for how contaminated the waste stream is. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that SWALCO should be able to answer any questions Ms. Wilcox has as they came to this committee two years ago and addressed the "demographics of garbage" within the Village. She stated that the information presented was both outstanding and eye-opening.

Ms. Wilcox stated that she is concerned about where our priorities are and what will make the biggest impact from a financial standpoint in the Village of Lake Bluff. She stated that now she understands the charge occurred for dirty recycling, she will be more aware as to what she is putting in her bins. She stated that this education piece is something that we don't need to spend a lot of money on but is possibly something that can be collaborated with the Eco-Club at LBES or in a newsletter. She stated that overall, she would like to see more of a cost-benefit analysis as to what will make a difference within the Village without over-paying for it.

Member Sorensen stated that over the last few years we have certainly had some stormwater presentations and the Village has certainly been walking through this, as has Ms. Wilcox, but she stated that it may be beneficial for Ms. Wilcox to go to the League of Women Voters website to watch the recorded video of the stormwater presentation.

Member Bishop stated that what we have found here with the land, especially on the terraces, and the amount of rain that we are getting now that we do need to make changes and the place to go for that is for zoning with the PCZBA. She stated that the goal of this committee is to make the environment viable for future generations to come so that they can have fresh water and they can have clean air, and so children can grow up in a community that is safe and healthy for him. She stated that the ideas we promote are from an educational standpoint and not to promote spending.

## **5. 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 was no request to change the order of the meeting.

## **6. General Business**

### **a. Presentation by Jillian Chapman, Lake Bluff Library, Regarding the New Seed Library Program**

Jillian Chapman approached the podium to begin her presentation. She stated that the Lake Bluff Library is starting a new seed program where residents can share seeds for free with their neighbors. She stated that their goal is to provide educational information about gardening, growing your own food, and the importance of native plant landscaping. She stated that from this seed library, they can create a seed network. She stated that the seed library will be the future or gardening and environmental programming for adults, a plant exchange in the Spring of 2020, as well as a teaching exchange for children on planting and maintaining a garden. She stated that thanks to a generous donation from Pasquesi Home and Garden, the seed library will include a wide variety of salt-tolerant native plants such as thimbleweed, butterfly weed, purple coneflower, grooved yellow flax, black-eyed susan, and 27 other species recommended by the Lake Bluff Sustainability Committee to further promote the importance of growing a diversified landscape at home. She stated that it will also include a variety of easy-to-grow vegetable plants for the novice gardener, a seed library catalog, free take-home seed packets, brochures, and as well as growing instructions to the plants. We currently have established community partnerships with the Village of Lake Bluff, Lake Bluff Open Lands Association (LBOLA), Elawa Farms, and the friends of Lake Bluff Library. She stated that it is there hope that their seed library will highlight these and other local organizations as well as promote the additional gardening resources we have

available at the library. She stated that with help, the Lake Bluff Public Library would like to get the word out about our seed library and the future gardening program before 2019-2020. She stated that a promo seed packet was included in the committee's packet along with their brochure, as well as a flyer as to what a seed library is, how to capture and borrow seeds, and a list of our native plant catalog.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that she is missing in her information packet how to capture seeds and prepare them to be in the package. Ms. Chapman stated that it is not on the flyer, but she has recently just created a FAQ sheet that has a serious list of many important questions regarding the seed library. She stated that there is not enough room for this information on the brochure or flyer, which is why the FAQ was created.

Member Sorensen stated that she believes this sounds wonderful and with the many gardeners present in Lake Bluff, it is important to have a sharing system in place since she has sometimes sold her unused plants on Facebook.

Member Twichell asked Ms. Chapman if she intends to have different programming at the library that would relate to building skills around this framework. Ms. Chapman stated that soon they are planning on doing a program with Lake Bluff Open Lands Association (LBOLA) where we are going to harvest seeds at Lake Bluff Open Lands and so that will be a little bit more of a how-to program. She stated that this program will occur in the fall because they have promoted summer programming before this fell into her ability to start this. She stated that the timing of this hit straight off, but we'll be able to get the seed library starting sooner. She stated in the Spring of 2020, they want to do a plant exchange, so she is trying to persuade the library to do gardening as their summer reading club. She stated that will be the theme for next summer and they will also be at the Farmers Market starting this Friday and going until August 23<sup>rd</sup> so she is hoping to have some this information with her and be able to have seeds that people can take and seeds that people can bring to her stand at the market about what this program is. She stated that the hope is to also have some gardening opportunities at the library and Elawa Farms is interesting in doing some joint programming either at Elawa with the library or come to the Lake Bluff Library, which will specifically be for children or adults about gardening and how to garden along with native species plants that would be appropriate to use in the village.

Member Twichell stated that one plant you may want to add to your list is milkweed. Ms. Chapman stated that was her first comment because she loves monarchs.

Member Johnson asked if there were any other libraries in the area that do something like this. Ms. Chapman stated that doesn't believe there is any in the immediate area but Appleton, WI has a seed library and a seed library organization which is where she was able to get a lot of her information from for this program.

Member Twichell stated she was curious as to if this is a year long project. Ms. Chapman stated that it would up for several years.

Member Bishop stated that she would like more information regarding how one can start their seeds. Ms. Chapman stated that she has a full packet from Prairie Moon about germination and different germination codes, so she is going to spell that all out since it is from A-Z and make the available because the native species all have codes on them,

so she has cataloged all this information.

Member Twichell stated that you have a lot of great resources nearby with the different garden clubs, the extension out of Grayslake, and the Botanical Garden. A brief discussion commenced.

**b. Presentation of Village Sustainability Plan**

AVA Cole stated that tonight the big focus is on our sustainability plan. He stated that he has a little bit of talking to do tonight to finalize some things but before we even get to that he pointed out at the dais there is quiet a few comments coming within the last two hours. He stated that these are very detailed comments and he encouraged the committee to read these comments. He stated to start things off, he would give a brief presentation, as an introduction for our many audiences of what this plan is and what we are trying to accomplish through it. He stated that he does have the first rough draft of the sustainability plan with some rough graphic design behind these ideas.

He stated that since this plan's creation about 4-5 years ago, the committee has really boiled down its focus to the following areas: Solid Waste Management & Recycling, Energy Conservation, Water Conservation, Stormwater Solutions, Natural Spaces, Light Pollution, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. He stated that for each of these, we've tied them into other Village plans, compared them to the other things the village does, and we've really tried to present four categories of information for each:

- 1) What is this? Why is it important/relevant to Lake Bluff? What are consequences of continuing our current actions?
- 2) Sustainable Lake Bluff – what are we trying to accomplish?
- 3) What will we do? What are some actions we as a community will do to try and realize these principles?
- 4) What can you do as a resident?

AVA Cole stated that he will go through each goal and what the principle as to what a sustainable Lake Bluff will look like. He presented the Solid Waste Management and Recycling section of the Plan.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that she was speaking with a Lake Bluff resident today who was unaware of this practice and that it may be time to send out another educating briefing about Lake Bluff services and the availability of the different recycling options. AVA Cole believes this is a good signal to update and improve our outreach to Lake Bluff residents.

Member Twichell stated SWALCO said around 30% of household waste is usually kitchen waste so the more that can go into the composting would only benefit the Village and help decrease the amount of waste entering landfills.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that she would be interested in learning how many residents in town are composting. Member Bishop stated that she believes to reach out to the community, we will have to do it verbally because she's had so many conversations where the individual is unaware of the scrap program and is told to look it up on the village website but the individual states that is too difficult to then figure out.

Member Bishop stated that kitchen composting is probably the easiest thing you can do.

She stated that the hard part is making residents aware that they can do this.

Member Sorensen stated that this would be a good table to have at the Farmers Market.

AVA Cole presented the Energy Conservation section of the Sustainability Plan.

Member Twichell asked if the homeowner energy audit is free. AVA Cole stated he is unsure, but he believes they are. He recommended ComEd as a reliable source for this type of audit.

AVA Cole stated that water conservation is always an interesting topic in the Village of Lake Bluff. He stated that we are so blessed to have such a source of fresh water right next to us and this resource for recreation as well.

Member Twichell stated that we still pay to process this water correct so there is still cost, which makes sense.

Member Sorensen stated we notice how valuable this resource is considering we live right next to it and can take advantage of just not the views but the paddling/sailing on the beach.

Member Bishop stated that her understanding is that there is a limit for how much water we can take as a community. She stated that we need to be mindful of what we are using and understand that we don't have endless amounts of water from Lake Michigan since we live right next to it.

AVA Cole presented the Water Conservation and Stormwater Solutions sections of the plan.

Member Twichell stated that you can include rain gardens and swales/bioswales in this section as well.

AVA Cole presented the Natural Spaces section of the plan.

Member Twichell stated that the Chicago Trees Initiative stated we have 50% canopy cover, which is great, but what percentage of that is buckthorn. AVA Cole stated that some things residents can do is to get rid of buckthorn, cultivate native plants, and improved lawn-care and less fertilizer.

AVA Cole presented the Light Pollution section of the plan.

Member Sorensen stated that if we can do anything as we walk through this it would be to link some of our conversations to the studies that are out there to address safety concerns, specifically the Dark Sky website.

Member Twichell mentioned in the comments she read that they stated they wanted this section even stronger. A brief discussion commenced.

Finally, AVA Cole presented the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation section of the plan.

**c. Discussion & Possible Recommendation of Sustainability Plan & Priority Goals to Village Board**

AVA Cole stated that there are three possible outcomes from the meeting:

- 1) Recommend as-is to the Village Board for consideration;
- 2) Recommend with certain revisions to be performed by Staff;
- 3) Continue its consideration.

AVA Cole stated that, if #2 is the preferred option, this all depends on how substantial some of these changes would be along with how much comfort is felt with Staff implementing these ideas. AVA Cole stated that there are comments in the packet from Ed Wynn, Larry McCotter, Karon Wilcox, Carol Lee Russ, Green Minds, and Jim Murray (a member of the PCZBA).

Member Bishop stated that she would like to see us tweak it with some of the comments because there are some good points listed here and be able to somehow approve it and get it to the Village Board before another month goes by. Member Johnson asked if there was a way to show it the board but still be able to make edits. AVA Cole stated that the final draft must be submitted, and the board can approve this in one meeting, but the bad news is that it must be turn-key ready. He stated with, there are two meetings in June, next Monday and June 24 which is three weeks away. He stated we can circulate this around again with the set of changes to make sure there are no objections and issue that out in time to be presented at the June 24 meeting. He stated that this would give us some more time from the design side of this as well. The committee stated that they would like the proposed solution proposed by AVA Cole. AVA Cole stated that next Friday or so, we can get a draft out and then probably try to close out that comment period by Monday or Tuesday so that way you had the weekend to take one last look at it, if that works for everyone. The committee stated that this works for them.

Member Bishop mentioned that Larry McCotter brought up the idea of pursuing federal money to achieve some of these goals. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Puryear mentioned that it may be difficult to promote the HOA's to diminish their buckthorn screening throughout the properties but could be a possible to remove the present buckthorn throughout the next ten years. A brief discussion commenced.

Member Twichell, seconded by Member Sorensen, moved to recommend the Village Board adopt the Sustainability Plan with changes drafted by Staff in response to public comment. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**7. Village Staff Report**

AVA Cole emphasized the SWALCO document present at the dais tonight that explains where recycled materials are going along with other details the committee had requested in prior meetings. A brief discussion commenced.

**8. Member's Report**

Member Sorensen reported back to the committee about the League of Women Voters session regarding water management. She stated it was a fantastic presentation and provided some fantastic resources for the committee to possible review and discuss. A brief discussion commenced.

Member Johnson stated that this is not her last meeting and that she had 2-3 students that are interested in possibly filling her position. Co-Chair Puryear mentioned the opportunity to possibly have more than one student representative on the SEC, possibly a junior and sophomore, or a junior and senior. A brief discussion commenced.

Member Twichell stated she wanted to know if LBOLA has started removing buckthorn yet. AVA Cole stated that Village Administrator Drew Irvin and LBOLA's Larry McCotter are still discussing this matter.

**9. Co-Chair's Report**

Co-Chair Puryear stated that she intends to fill out an application for a rent-a-chicken program and is waiting for the application to come in front of the SEC. She stated that her and her neighbor are intending to apply for this program and will be waiting for AVA Cole to bring their application in front of the SEC. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that she wanted to know an update on Washington Park because she said it was looking a little weedy. AVA Cole stated that this is on his to-do list, so he hopes to have an answer for the committee by the next meeting in July.

Co-Chair Puryear mentioned the idea of using the former gas station lot on the corner of North Avenue and Sheridan Road as a possible pilot program to turn it into all prairie grass. A brief discussion commenced.

**10. Adjournment**

As no further business came before the SEC, Member Twichell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Member Sorensen seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Scopelliti  
Administrative Intern