

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

April 19, 2022  
7:00 P.M.  
Village Hall Board Room  
40 East Center Avenue

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**1. Call To Order and Roll Call**

The Village of Lake Bluff Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee (SEC) met on April 19, 2022 in the Village Hall Board Room (40 E. Center Avenue) at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present:

Present: Marina Carney Puryear, Co-Chair  
Brian Rener, Co-Chair  
McCamie Cole  
Marietta Hance  
Alexa Richer  
Sophia Twichell

Absent: Nanette Barrett

Also Present: R. Drew Irvin, Village Administrator (VA)

**2. Consideration of the February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Co-Chair Puryear moved to approve the February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. Member Barrett seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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.

**4. General Business**

**a. Backyard Chicken Application – 425 Lincoln Avenue (Aynsley Rutledge)**

At the invitation of Co-Chair Rener, VA Irvin said the Village received a backyard animal license application to raise chickens on the property located at 425 Lincoln Avenue. Unfortunately, the Applicant could not attend the meeting this evening due to a family emergency. He said the meeting requirement allows nearby property owners to receive advance notice, and an opportunity to be heard. As of today, Staff has not received any feedback or comments regarding the application.

In response to a question from Member Twichell, Co-Chair Puryear said the rear yard has a wire mesh fence.

Following a brief discussion, Co-Chair Puryear moved to recommend that the Village Administrator approve the Backyard Chicken Permit as presented and renewal annually if desired without coming before the SEC. Member Sorensen seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Cole, Hance, Richer, Twichell, Co-Chair Puryear, Co-Chair Rener  
Nays: (0)  
Absent (1) Barrett

**b. How to Tend a Garden**

VA Irvin said Member Hance has suggested that SEC members take responsibility for specific action items in order to more effectively implement the Village’s Sustainability Plan. If the SEC supports this course of action, she is proposing to take the lead in sponsoring a group of residents for activities that advance Action NS-5 of the Plan

Co-Chair Rener commented on his discussion with Staff regarding the important of educating the public on all the SEC programs. He said this request could be use as part of a larger framework to establish an educational subcommittee to host events and distribute educational information for topics such as lighting, chickens, and recycling at the Farmers Market or downtown.

Member Hance elaborated on her vision then stated why she would like to be responsible for planning and implementing a public educational program “How to Tend a Garden.” She said she could represent the program, as an SEC representative, in a public forum which would include: classes held in Washington Park; inviting local landscape designers or interested gardeners to teach the program; publishing notice in the “Lake Bluff Letter” weekly e-newsletter; and providing progress reports to the SEC. She said that “you protect what you love” and said that hands-on experience is important and could help residents develop a lifelong desire to protect/sustain the community. Co-Chair Rener commented on his vision of a structured educational process if the SEC were to participate in the program.

VA Irvin said historically, Ad Hoc Committees have not been working committees; however, if desired the committee could review proposals consistent with the Plan. A discussion followed.

Co-Chair Rener said proposals of this type could be considered as best practices, as things such as leaf blower regulations evolve and are more closely examined. He said he thinks the SEC could get more community involvement if residents were able to view the SEC’s work progress and proposals. VA Irvin said if the SEC is comfortable with the approach outlined in Staff memorandum, for the timing of this proposal, the Village could help with communication and educating the public which could ultimately lead to developing a pilot program. A discussion followed.

In response to a comment from Member Twichell, Member Richer said from an educational viewpoint, seminars and website with informative videos could be used to educate the community. She commented on how Lake Forest High School Environmental and Media clubs could contribute to the program. Member Twichell commented on the various ways which the program could be implemented and said that high school students would be awesome ambassadors. A discussion followed.

Co-Chair Puryear said if Member Hance self-pilots the program, it is her belief it will not get the public press until after it is done because people will not have the opportunity to ask or engage in questions which could be captured on video.

Member Cole said he loves the idea of the SEC being in charge but we need to be careful in regards to assuming responsibility (or “liability”) for the information presented to the public. He said the Village has innumerable gardening resources (Garden Club, Kinnucan, Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Open Lands) as well as nurseries in the surrounding area. He thinks this could be an excellent opportunity to fulfill some of the Plan action items such as educating the public. If this is the direction we want to consider, he thinks the SEC should have a booth at the Farmers Market, engage with the community in a friendly manner beneficial for digital learners as well as physical learners, and the SEC should decide what information should be distributed (as examples, he identified information about gardening, light pollution, stormwater management, mosquito abatement, erosion control, solid waste and recycling). Member Cole said it is important to mention that, while the SEC may be the organizing body, it will rely on experts to educate the general public on the chosen topics. Co-Chair Rener suggested a future meeting to discussion best practices and potential program structures. A discussion ensued.

In response to a question from Member Cole, VA Irvin said a Village consultant conducted a public survey regarding improvements to the Central Business District and downtown but not a Farmers Market booth. If there is a consensus, Staff will work with Member Hance to make the program as successful as possible. Member Cole asked how equipped is the Village to launch this sort of multi-faceted education campaign, VA Irvin said the Village has the capability to launch social media or website assets if needed. A discussion followed.

In response to a comment from Co-Chair Puryear, VA Irvin said the Criterion Bike Race is scheduled for July 30 then he shared information regarding previous booth allocation for educational purposes.

Following an extensive discussion, Co-Chair Rener said if the SEC is interested the next steps would include a separate agenda item to discuss the rules, process, and volunteers.

### **c. Sustainability Plan Progress**

At the invitation of Co-Chair Rener, VA Irvin said this is a phenomenal plan for a municipality of our size and resources; however, some of the goals listed in the table should be called “aspirational plans” such as the 60% recycling effort which is a county wide goal that the Village may never reach. The SEC has done an interim check on the plan and he thinks it should consider identifying a small number of priorities concerning the Plan for the next 12 months and continue revising the plan.

Co-Chair Rener commented on future plans not included in the list of priorities such as the 176 corridor improvements; bike planning; downtown improvements; greening and additional garden spaces and said it is nice to see some of the programs coming to fruition. VA Irvin commented on his discussion with Co-Chair Rener regarding potential focus areas including zoning code regulations surrounding exterior lighting as well as revision of the Comprehensive Plan.

Member Cole asked if there were plans to educate the public on the Plan progress and a message regarding “Earth Day.” Following a discussion regarding Earth Day, Co-Chair Rener said it would be idea to send out a blast advising of the committee’s achievements, sustainability and initiatives.

Member Twichell expressed her preference to include “no mow until Mother’s Day” to benefit pollinators. In response to a question from Member Cole, VA Irvin said the “No Mow May” is one of those educational objectives that the Village could help supports and it could be included in the Village Newsletter or a press release. A discussion followed.

Co-Chair Rener said the NS-5 does not specifically address lawn equipment (mowing, leaf blowing) and inquired if the committee would like to create an additional item. He shared information regarding discussions in a regional working committee addressing leaf blowing model ordinance and noted additional items should be included in the Plan because carbon impact is a future concern.

In response to a comment from Co-Chair Rener, VA Irvin said each of the action items has some sort of educational component. The idea would be to develop a program to support the educational components specific initiatives for 12 months, process and review materials, review schedule and communication channels to push out event announcements and results. VA Irvin continued by sharing information regarding the upcoming Green Bay Road and Bridge replacement plan as well as stormwater improvements and funding associated with upcoming projects. A discussion followed.

In response to a question from Member Twichell regarding the existing train tracks, VA Irvin said that, after speaking with a representative from Union Pacific, it is his understanding the train tracks will remain and be used to transport freight. A discussion followed.

Co-Chair Rener expressed that the Plan action items that have been or will be discussed in the next 12 months consist of: public education; leaf blower regulations; developing outdoor lighting regulations; and revisiting the bike plan including the gaps downtown for bike racks.

In response to a question from Member Cole, VA Irvin provided an update on the neighborhood food waste program proposed by a local resident. He said that the pilot program marketing materials have been prepared and it is anticipated the independent volunteers will move forward soon. A discussion followed.

**5. Village Staff Report**

VA Irvin provided an updated on the downtown streetscape program as well as the South Sheridan Road Landscape Plan. He commented on why the South Sheridan Road bid was re-advertised and noted that the cost of construction has increased substantially recently.

VA Irvin said the Village goal is to increase it net trees by planting approximately 150 trees this year in parkways and public land.

In response to a comment from Co-Chair Rener, VA Irvin said the SEC was established to join together different approaches to landscaping and gardening in the community; to review the Village’s landscape plans; and to bring about a new vision for the Village in terms of how to approach things in a more sustainable way. The original goal was also that the SEC to have an educational speaker at every meeting to address sustainability issues. A discussion followed.

**6. Member’s Report**

There was no Member’s report.

**7. Co-Chair’s Report**

Co-Chair Rener said he inquired if there was a need to share information regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) with the Village’s backyard chicken participants. A discussion followed.

Co-Chair Puryear said her house is pending sale and she may be relocating outside the Village so this is possibly her last meeting. Co-Chair Rener thanked her for years of support as well as leading the charge on the bees and chicken programs.

**8. Adjournment**

As no further business came before the SEC, Member Hance moved to adjourn the meeting. Co-Chair Puryear seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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R. Drew Irvin  
Village Administrator