

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

September 28, 2016

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Village of Lake Bluff Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee (SEC) met on September 28, 2016 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
 Jill Danly
 Liz Leutwiler
 Nan Patterson
 Anne Sorensen

Absent: Marina Carney Puryear, Co-Chair

Also Present: Evonda Thomas-Smith, City of Evanston's Director of Health and Human Services Department (Telephonically)
 Lisa Hilgenberg, Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulturist
 Drew Irvin, Village Administrator
 Franco Bottalico, Administrative Intern

3. Approval of the July 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Member Sorensen moved to approve the July 27, 2016 SEC Meeting Minutes. Member Danly seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Non-Agenda Items and Visitors

Co-Chair Rener stated 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.

5. Order of the Meeting

There were no requests to change the order of business.

6. General Business

A. A Presentation from Carl Caneva, Assistant Director of the City Of Evanston's Health and Human Services Department, Regarding Evanston's Recently Amended Beekeeping Ordinance, and a Presentation on Beekeeping from Lisa Hilgenberg, Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulturist.

Administrative Intern Bottalico gave a brief background introduction to the SEC on the City of Evanston's Department of Health and Human Services ordinance and its recent amendments. Mr. Bottalico advised that Assistant Director Caneva was unable to attend the meeting; however, his supervisor, Director Evonda Thomas-Smith, offered to speak to the SEC via telephone.

Co-Chair Renner contacted Director Thomas-Smith by phone and thanked her for speaking to the SEC. VA Irvin requested Director Thomas-Smith to begin with a background of Evanston's beekeeping ordinance, its current status and then describe the recent amendments to the ordinance.

Director Thomas-Smith gave the SEC a brief background of how the ordinance evolved. Once established several neighbors made inquiries regarding medical concerns of bees, which transitioned into the City amending its ordinance. Director Thomas-Smith stated the amendment to their ordinance states that if a resident desired a beekeeping license they would have to alert neighbors and gain their consent. In the event the neighbor does not give consent due to a medical condition, the applicant can appeal the beekeeping license with the City. If the City feels that permitting the apiary is a viable opportunity for a resident to become a beekeeper the City offers a site on City property to permit the apiary. If an applicant has a neighbor who denies them from obtaining an apiary, this alternate City-owned property provides a resident an opportunity to become a beekeeper.

Co-chair Renner asked if there is a certain amount of square footage regarding beekeeping on City property. According to Director Thomas-Smith, an apiary must be 150 feet away from public playground, parkways, active activities of other residents, or any other scheduled recreation. The apiary must be fenced in as well. She also stated the City provides the fencing for the apiaries on public property.

Member Sorensen inquired what type of fencing Director Thomas-Smith recommends for the apiaries. Director Thomas-Smith stated for apiaries on City property they require chain-link fencing and on residential properties the fencing varies.

Member Danly inquired on what initiated Director Thomas-Smith on allowing beekeeping and how does the City market this. Director Thomas-Smith stated this was initiated by a resident's science project on beekeeping. She also stated there is community outreach via the City's website. A discuss on community outreach ensued.

Member Leutwiler inquired if the City of Evanston has a cap on the amount of apiaries the City permits a resident to own per property, and total number of apiary licenses permitted City-wide. Director Thomas-Smith stated the City does not have a cap on City-wide apiary licenses; however, the City does regulate how many apiaries are permitted per property. The City permits a maximum of six apiaries on City property locations. Residents on their own property currently only keep one apiary.

Co-Chair Renner asked what is the square footage is in the fenced in area. Director Thomas-Smith advised the fenced in area is 20X25 feet.

Director Thomas-Smith stated the City receives approximately two beekeeping license inquiries per year.

Member Patterson inquired on apiary inspections. Director Thomas-Smith stated the apiaries are inspected annually.

Co-Chair Rener inquired on the planting of flowers near apiaries in public spaces. Director Thomas-Smith stated that they placed the apiary near a community garden that has been beneficial for the bees.

A discussion ensued on the success of the beekeeping ordinance in the City of the Evanston and the City's unique and diverse population.

Member Sorensen inquired on keeping an apiary on roof top and its benefits. Director Thomas-Smith stated that presents a challenge conducting safe inspections.

Co-Chair Rener thanked Director Thomas-Smith for her time. Director Thomas-Smith thanked the SEC and offered her support in going forward. A discussion on beekeeping ensued.

At this time Lisa Hilgenberg introduced herself to the SEC. She stated she wanted to share the Chicago Botanic Garden's challenges and success in beekeeping.

Ms. Hilgenberg presented a background and overview via Power Point to the SEC on the Chicago Botanic Garden and its beekeeping efforts.

Ms. Hilgenberg stated the national overwintering success of beekeeping is 25% and the Chicago Botanic Garden has had approximately a 33% success rate. She added this rate varies year-to-year.

Ms. Hilgenberg stated one challenge they have encountered is swarming. That occurs when the queen needs to find a larger area. In the past they have cut down the tree branch that a swarm has chosen and relocate the swarm to a more suitable area. Ms. Hilgenberg stated that a swarm of bees is a non-threatening event.

Ms. Hilgenberg presented and discussed photos of a model beehive placement in a grove, and explained why a beehive should face south-east to ensure proper sun exposure.

Ms. Hilgenberg explained safety precautions the Chicago Botanic Garden takes regarding medical emergencies. In addition, she stated bees have never entered buildings, and typically do not become agitated from the public.

Ms. Hilgenberg opened the floor for questions from the SEC.

Member Patterson inquired on what becomes of a swarm and can you replace those bees who have fled. Ms. Hilgenberg stated that often times you cannot because the hive has been split in half and you must reintroduce an additional queen.

Member Danly inquired on what type of public education does the Chicago Botanic Garden on beekeeping benefits. Ms. Hilgenberg stated that there are workshops and

clinics that they teach to the public, and they have a beekeeper who is active to teach the public on beekeeping.

Member Patterson inquired on the major considerations regarding the management of bees. Ms. Hilgenberg stated that in addition to financial concerns, knowledge and availability of water is important.

Co-Chair Renner inquired on how the Chicago Botanic Garden determined how many hives to place on the island. Ms. Hilgenberg stated that two hives per acres are what farmers use for proper pollination for food crops. A discussion ensued.

Member Sorensen inquired at what temperatures are bees active. Ms. Hilgenberg responded by stating anything over 40 degrees.

VA Irvin inquired on overwintering and if Ms. Hilgenberg has any recommendations. Ms. Hilgenberg stated that it becomes more dangerous when removing the bees; it is best to keep the bees year-round. A discussion ensued on the location of a hive. Ms. Hilgenberg stated she is happy to share her seed mix that she uses for plants surrounding the hives.

VA Irvin explained that the Village of Lake Bluff permits certain property to allow beekeeping, and that the goal of the SEC is to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding beekeeping for a potential pilot program, and educate the public on beekeeping and its benefits.

VA Irvin inquired on minimum amount of water and vegetation available needed for bees. Ms. Hilgenberg stated the more forage available for bees creates a happy hive; a lawn clover is the largest source of food in nectars for bees; however, spraying lawns reduces the amount of clovers available. Spreading the message of stop spraying your lawn is a good message for the SEC to spread. Ms. Hilgenberg stated that water is necessary for bees, and a thoughtful placement of a water source is recommended.

VA inquired on community gardens and a potential location in the Village and asked if Ms. Hilgenberg has general guidelines on community gardens to share with the SEC. Ms. Hilgenberg stated she would be happy to do so.

The SEC thanked Ms. Hilgenberg for her time.

B. A Continued Discussion Regarding the Prioritization of Goals/Tasks

Co-Chair Renner expressed that the SEC should dedicate a meeting to focusing on the list of Goals/Tasks item.

A discussion ensued on the best way to prioritize the SEC's Goals/Tasks as well as public education initiatives once submitted and approved by the Village Board of Trustees.

VA Irvin stated that at the request of an SEC Member Administrative Intern Bottalico visited the Lake Bluff Middle School, Lake Bluff Elementary School, Forest Bluff Montessori, and Lake Bluff Park District parking lots in search of "No Idling" signs.

Administrative Intern Bottalico reported observing two “No Idling” signs in the parking lot of the Lake Bluff Middle School. Administrative Intern Bottalico will investigate where the Lake Bluff Middle School purchased the sign as well as the price for the SEC to consider.

VA Irvin requested the SEC forward him each Member’s top 10 goals/tasks that they desire to work on (excluding any educational initiatives of the Goals/Tasks since that is a common ground concern of the SEC). At an upcoming SEC meeting the Members will then prioritize the list of Goals/Tasks with stickers.

7. Village Staff Report

VA Irvin stated he has had conversations with a resident who owns an undeveloped lot in the Village and the resident is willing to allow a community garden on the location. VA Irvin suggested the resident come speak with the SEC if the resident is further interested. VA Irvin recommended the resident to also speak with the neighbors regarding constructing a community garden before doing so. A discussion on community gardens ensued.

Members Patterson and Sorensen offered contacts as a resource when exploring community gardens. Member Sorensen recommended utilizing fencing for protection from deer and other animals.

8. Member’s Report

Member Danly shared information regarding an upcoming events on a community’s walkability, and if anyone is interested attending. Member Danly also shared a Green Mind initiative that focuses on a bring-your-own-bag. She also shared an environmental town hall meeting she attended regarding what others in Illinois are doing. A discussion ensued on walkability efforts.

Co-Chair Rener shared a model lighting ordinance. He stated that this is a tool other organizations have used when adopting a lighting ordinance.

Member Leutwiler inquired if the Village has received any feedback on the new LED lights. VA Irvin stated in addition to the most common issue the Village has been dealing with is the intensity of lights as they are now versus what was previously there. This may be due to the intensity and cleanliness of the new lenses, as well as the positioning of the light poles. A discussion ensued on street light placement on streets.

9. Co-Chair’s Report

The Co-Chairs had nothing to report.

10. Adjournment

As no further business came before the SEC, Member Sorensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Member Leutwiler seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Drew Irvin
Village Administrator