

1 **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING**
2 **Tuesday, July 12, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.**
3 **IN-PERSON MEETING**
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6 **I. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER**
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8 Chairman Melanie Rummel called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. Aldermen
9 Eileen Weber was present. Alderman Jim Preschlack was absent.

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11 Staff in attendance included Mike Strong, Assistant City Manager and Reagan
12 Walsh, Management Analyst. Two public attendees were also present.

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14 A moment of silence was held for the victims of Highland Park.
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17 **II. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
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19 **a. UPDATE ON THE RETHINK RECYCLE CAMPAIGN**
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21 Assistant City Manager Mike Strong provided an update on the City's
22 Rethink Recycle campaign. The review provided an overview of the
23 program in 2022, including interns hired, partners and funding, and events
24 and outreach held throughout the year. A detailed overview of the data
25 collected from the curbside audits was discussed. Mr. Strong and the
26 Committee members agreed that the program has seen to have great
27 success on its core mission.
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29 Further outlining the success of the program, Mr. Strong announced the
30 City of Lake Forest has been recognized by the International City
31 Managers Association (ICMA) for its Rethink Recycle Campaign. The
32 Committee was informed that an award will be presented to the City at
33 the 2022 ICMA Annual Conference in Columbus, OH, this September, and
34 formally presented to City Council in December of 2022.
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36 Chairman Rummel asked if there were any additional comments or
37 questions from the Committee. The Committee discussed potential new
38 opportunities for tracking and merging address data. Chairman Webber
39 asked specific contamination and recycling questions answered through
40 a Rethink Recycle Campaign intern present. Chairman Rummel also
41 recommended that the City's Recycling Center be added as a drop-off
42 location that are listed on the "Oops" cards presented to citizens with
43 contaminated carts.
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45 Chairman Rummel asked if there were any additional questions or
46 comments from members of the public.
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48 Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

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III. ACTION ITEMS

a. APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Rummel moved to approve the June 15, 2022, Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting minutes. Alderman Weber seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. DIRECTION OF NEW SOLAR GENERATION FACILITIES PROJECT

Assistant City Manager Mike Strong reviewed a presentation regarding the new Solar Generation (PV) Facilities project. Mr. Strong outlined the in-depth research and action steps that have been taken, including the project scope narrowing to the Public Safety Building, the collection of updated pricing proposal rates from vendors, and a list of the finalized franchise account options that have been reviewed with ComEd.

After reviewing the most recent pricing proposals and financial comparisons between vendors, Mr. Strong presented a review of the four franchise account options available to the City. Insights were centered around the different ways each listed option financially impacts both the City and its residents.

A lengthy discussion was held thereafter reviewing each of the possible viable project options. Additionally, the Committee suggested potential future solar options, including the possibility of adding solar generating panels on streetlights on Deerpath, as well as potential opportunities with the lighting for Sports fields, future parking garages, and major assets in the City including educational institutions and the hospital.

After consideration, Chairman Rummel motioned to not move forward with the Solar Energy Project, but for the City to continue to look at new opportunities for solar generation and work with the qualified consultants to find potentially new viable options outside of the options presented. Alderman Weber seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Rummel asked if there were any additional questions or comments from members of the public.

Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. DISCUSSION ON FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES & PRIORITIES – Mike Strong, Assistant City Manager

97 Assistant City Manager, Mike Strong, reviewed an update on the current
98 projects that are underway including an update on the community
99 gardening and increased accessibility to composting program projects.

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101 Each Committee member provided their thoughts on the initiatives
102 presented. In particular, the Committee had discussed the dwindling
103 supply of space available for community gardening at the current
104 facilities and the potential need for a survey to be distributed throughout
105 the community to garner more insight on where and how much demand
106 is present for new space.

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108 Composting discussions involved a potential pilot project for citizens to be
109 able to have an in-home composting unit that could increase the amount
110 of waste diverted from landfills. The cost share program would allow
111 families to apply for a composting unit, where they would then track their
112 composting results, and the city would ultimately analyze the return on
113 investment with diverted tons of garbage. The Committee reached
114 consensus to move forward with the needed actions to start the pilot
115 project.

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117 Chairman Rummel asked if there were any public comments on any non-
118 agenda items.

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120 Seeing none, Chairman Rummel moved to the next agenda item.

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123 **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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125 Chairman Rummel asked if there were any public comments on any non-
126 agenda items.

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128 Seeing none, Chairman Rummel moved to the next agenda item.

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130 **NEXT MEETING DATE(S)**

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132 Assistant City Manager, Mike Strong stated that the next meeting would be
133 scheduled for the week of August 17, 2022.

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135 **ADJOURNMENT**

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137 Before adjournment, Chairman Rummel expressed the deep gratitude the
138 Environmental Sustainability Committee and the City of Lake Forest has for
139 Assistant City Manager Mike Strong after his announced departure from the City
140 next month.

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142 Alderman Weber moved to adjourn the meeting of the Environmental
143 Sustainability Committee at 5:10 P.M. seconded by Weber. The motion carried
144 unanimously by voice vote.

Environmental Sustainability Committee Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2022

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Respectfully Submitted,

Reagan Walsh
Management Analyst