

Village of Flossmoor

Green Commission Meeting Minutes

Time: Mar 16, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82572922686>

Meeting ID: 825 7292 2686

One tap mobile (312)626-6799

I. Call to Order

Chair Turnquest called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Chair Turnquest, Commissioners O'Keefe, DeSantis, Ratowitz, Scharon and Shaw; Welcome new commissioners Jeffrey Lippert and Darlyne Klages; Student Representative Benjamin Turnquest

Absent: Commissioners Barker

Staff: Laura Brennan-Levy

III. Welcome Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Commission

Nancy Burrows, Chair of the Public Art Commission, was in attendance to share an idea to cross promote the Public Art and Green Commissions. The Art Commission is hosting the Barrels of Hope fundraiser this summer. Painted wooden barrels will be on display in Flossmoor, and available for purchase through an auction to support the public art program. Nancy thought the Green Commission would like to promote rain barrels to Flossmoor residents at the same time. Through the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, all Cook County residents can purchase a rain barrel for \$45.78. (Rain Barrels cost \$100 from retailers). Commissioner Ratowitz suggested the commission remind residents of this ongoing opportunity to residents by promoting the link on the Flossmoor.org Green Resources page, and linking to another Green Commission event or program such as the Flossmoor Library Seed Library. The commission will include rain barrel promotion in their event and program planning.

IV. Approval of February 16, 2021 minutes

Chair Turnquest asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2020 meeting. Motion: Commissioner DeSantis, Second: Commissioner Ratowitz. Motion passed by a voice vote.

V. Green Commission Budget Review

There is \$600 remaining in the Green Commission budget period ending April 30, 2021.

Motion: Commissioner O'Keefe made a motion to approve \$300 in native plant seed packets, and \$300 on miscellaneous Green Commission expenses as determined by Chair Turnquest. 2nd: Commissioner DeSantis

The motion passed by a voice vote.

AYES: Chair Turnquest, Commissioners O'Keefe, DeSantis, Ratowitz, Scharon, Shaw, Lippert, and Klages

ABSENT: Commissioners Barker

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Tristan will purchase seed packets for resident giveaways. Commissioners will consider other purchases by the April meeting.

VI. Commission Goals Goal Setting, Themes and Subcommittees for 2020-2021: Entire Commission

A. Each Commissioner's update on assigned areas

- Phil: Mayors Monarch Pledge update – workplan
Technology and historical home preservation
No update. Commissioner Lippert asked for suggestions on milkweed plants that won't take over yard. Commissioner Shaw will recommend seeds for smaller, hard-to-plant areas in yard. Planting education will be provided to residents through the Monarch Pledge program.
- Eric: Reducing chemicals, pesticides, herbicides and hazardous waste, Greenhouse gas emissions and energy
Chair Turnquest is working on educational materials for the summer.
- Tristan/Jen: Native Plants and landscaping, Tree planting, and Adopt an Island Ordinance & identify other ordinances that the Green Commission could pass
-Commissioner Shaw is working with Dave Becker to order and plant 45 free parkway trees. Shaw has all addresses and will reach out to commissioners for planting volunteers.
-Commissioners Shaw and O'Keefe are interested in meeting with Village Staff to discuss Adopt-an-Island ideas. Laura will communicate with Allison Matson and Dave Becker to arrange meeting.
- Hilary/Janelle: Exploring the Greenest Region Compact goals
No update.
- Janelle: Flossmoor School District 161 Green Team Liaison
Commissioner Scharon met with Superintendent Dan Smith to discuss ideas on how the Flossmoor Green Commission can support Flossmoor School District 161 Green Teams. Discussion was focused on playgrounds, and promoting the Monarch Butterfly Pledge. Scharon will bring feedback to the April meeting.

- Ben/Ernie/Everyone: Youth Development, Ben: HFHS Environmental Club Liaison, Promotional campaign language for a call for resident-created Green videos.
Commissioner O’Keefe and Student representative Ben Turnquest published their first Green video: The Monarch Butterfly Journey. The video has been shared in a Village E-News, with media, and on the Green Commission webpage. Sharon will share with SD 161 Green Teams. The commission agreed this is a good tool to launch and promote the Monarch Pledge. The pair looks forward to a follow-up video this summer.

VII. Old Business

- A. Earth Month Activities and Southland Green Committee Spring Cleanup – April 2021
Flossmoor will promote community Earth Month programs including the following:
Community Cleanup - The Chicago Southland Green Committee in promoting safe community cleanup throughout the Spring. Residents will be encouraged to remain on side streets, parks, and school property. Commissioner O’Keefe suggested that The Village of Flossmoor ask residents to submit DIY cleanup pictures to win a Flossmoor business gift card.
Flossmoor Public Works Community Cleanup Day-Warmer weather and sunshine is in the forecast this weekend, so if you're not busy Saturday morning, come out at 9 a.m. on March 20 and join the Flossmoor Public Works Department for a community cleanup day! Litter cleanup will take place at Crawford/Pulaski between Flossmoor Road and 187th and Crawford/Pulaski between Meijer and Ballantrae.
Spring Tree Planting - The Green Commission and community volunteers will assist Flossmoor Public Works in planting 45 parkway trees.
Community Events – Other community Earth Month activities forwarded to Laura will be shared with residents through E-News and social media.
- B. 2021 Calendar of events and projects
Chair Turnquest will work with Laura on a Green Commission Program and Event schedule to review at the April meeting.
- C. Recyclpalooza Planning – October, 2021
Chair Turnquest will work with commission on a timeline to prepare for the October event. Commissioners should watch for other community recycling events to share with Flossmoor residents.

VIII. New Business

Commissioner O’Keefe shared an update on *South Suburbs for Greenspace*, a community environmental group opposed to the development of the Calumet Country Club into a fulfillment/trucking hub. Commissioners can visit the website, or contact O’Keefe directly for more information (ss4greenspace.org).

IX. Adjournment

Chair Turnquest called for a motion to adjourn. Motion: Commissioner DeSantis, Second: Commissioner O'Keefe. Motion passed by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2021