

**VILLAGE OF GLENCOE
SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE**

**Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 7, 2021- 7:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The following Task Force members were virtually present:

Barney Gallagher, Chair

Peter Mulvaney, Vice-Chair (7:10 p.m.)

Bob Breisblatt

Sandy Culver

Hall Healy

Tina Hostert

Larry Reilly

Linda Lin

Catherine Procopi

Jennifer Varela

The following task force members were absent:

Lisa Brooks

Helyn Latham

Joshua Markus

Laurie Tuchman

Also present were:

Jaimie Fishman, Volunteer

Eric Loeb, Volunteer

Jeff Mawdsley, Staff Liaison

Zina Ronner, Glencoe Community Garden

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2021 STF MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. Procopi, and unanimously adopted by all those present by roll call vote, the meeting minutes for October 26, 2021, were approved.

Mr. Gallagher welcomed two volunteers, Mr. Loeb and Mr. Fishman, who would be helping with specific projects with the STF.

3. LIBRARY WEBINAR PROGRAM AND BLOG UPDATE

Mr. Gallagher noted that the January and February programs are set, and the library will be looking for information on March and April programs soon. Ms. Culver and Ms. Lin discussed possibly finding a speaker to speak on the importance of bees and other pollinators, or a follow-up to the Leave the Leaves presentation.

Ms. Ronner offered that the community garden has many programs that they have prepared. She suggested that we coordinate with Vivian Nitzburg of the Community

Garden to coordinate a presentation. Ms. Lin said that she thought having a Community Garden presentation would be great.

Mr. Gallagher asked Mr. Reilly if the Friends of the Green Bay Trail had any ideas they might be interested in presenting. Mr. Reilly said he knew of a graduate student whose study focused on bees in the Chicago area, and she has specific knowledge of the Green Bay Trail.

There was some discussion about the Leave the Leaves signs on the Green Bay Trail.

Mr. Gallagher said that he thought that both presentations about the Community Garden and bees in the area are great ideas, but that dates would need to be set up through the library by Mid-December for March and April. Mr. Gallagher reviewed some of the details for the January program with Dr. Wuebbles on climate change.

Mr. Gallagher moved on to discussing the blog, noting that it has been a while since an article had been submitted, and there were no future post topics scheduled. Mr. Mulvaney asked a broad question about the intention of the blog. Mr. Mulvaney said he thinks that there is a lot of information out there about general sustainability subjects, so the blog should be focused on local aspects of sustainability specific to Glencoe. Ms. Varela said she thought that a secondary purpose of the blog was to store information about the Task Force's activities.

Mr. Gallagher said that previous practice was to assign a topic to a specific volunteer and have them come up with the content of the blog post. Mr. Gallagher asked if having a looser structure where articles are written as needed would be better. Ms. Hostert said she thinks that only posting things as needed would not be good because the blog would always be a low priority, and new posts would not happen very often.

Mr. Briesblatt stated that he supported having people come up with ideas that they are motivated to write about. He also discussed the overall visibility of the Task Force. Mr. Healy said his opinion is that a hybrid approach would probably work best. He suggested writing things as they come up but having items in reserve that can be published during slow times.

Mr. Gallagher said he thinks that the Task Force gets a lot of visibility from sponsoring the library programs. Ms. Culver said that recapping the webinar with a local spin would make good blog post entries. Ms. Lin said that even embedding the video recording in a blog post might be beneficial. Mr. Reilly said having a deadline is good for him because it forces him to research the topic and think about how it relates to Glencoe specifically. The difficulty is translating that information into actionable advice.

Mr. Healy suggested that each working group take charge of one blog post in the upcoming year, and that would give us a framework to build from. Mr. Mulvaney agreed with this approach. There was some discussion about how people access local news and information.

Ms. Hostert suggested that the blog be rebranded into more of a hub for sustainability information in addition to recaps of events. There was some discussion about using the “Dear Ruby...” column idea to help rebrand the blog into something more of a reference and information repository.

Mr. Gallagher said he was going to assign the Public Awareness working group to look at rebranding the blog.

4. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Ms. Procopi said she having difficulty getting some of the applicants to respond to her emails. Ms. Lin said she would contact School Superintendent Catherine Wang about getting a hold of these candidates.

5. GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWER UPDATE

Mr. Healy recapped the meeting hosted by Go Green Illinois earlier that day. At that meeting, it was discussed that several communities were looking at forming a consortium to discuss this topic. A representative from the landscaping industry attended the meeting and outlined concerns about implementing a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Mr. Healy said he was extremely surprised and encouraged by how fast interest in this issue had grown. Mr. Gallagher spoke about the consortium that is being proposed, noting that Glencoe Village Manager Phil Kiraly was instrumental in pulling this together. He said this group would hopefully be forming soon. The committee would include two representatives from each participating community, including officials from other interested parties, such as park districts and landscaping businesses. The goal would be to produce a model ordinance by October 2022. Mr. Gallaher also noted that Evanston has already implemented a ban. Mr. Gallagher praised the efforts of Mr. Hall, Ms. Culver, and Ms. Latham in pushing this initiative.

Ms. Culver reviewed the leave the leaves program from the fall. She said that the signs were not as effective at promoting the idea because the writing on them was small. Mr. Gallagher said he had received similar feedback. Mr. Gallagher said that even though it took some time to refine the message, that he did think the promotion through the Village’s weekly news was effective, as was the mailing.

At this point, the committee reviewed some of its activities for improving its visibility for the benefit of Mr. Loeb. Ms. Hostert recapped the Most Im-Peak-able bird contest, and that the winner was the ruby-throated hummingbird. As a result, the committee decided to develop Ruby, the hummingbird as a mascot for the Task Force.

Building on that, Mr. Loeb asked if there was any baseline knowledge about the community’s views of sustainability. Mr. Gallagher said that would be discussed later in the meeting.

6. YEAR END SPENDING UPDATE

Jeff confirmed that the purchase of the signage is moving forward.

7. 2022 CALENDAR PLANNING

The Task Force finalized a meeting schedule for 2022.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES (AS NEEDED)

C. Public Awareness: There was some discussion on the need to measure community attitudes about sustainability to better direct the Task Forces activities. Ms. Lin said that there was a meeting of the presidents of the various public bodies in Glencoe (Village, School District, Park District, and Library) for the first time to foster communication and coordination. It appears this will become a regular meeting. One of the things discussed at this meeting was that each body was toward the end of their respective strategic plans and that COVID-19 was a major disrupter in terms of not only operations but strategic planning. She said that each body was interested in surveying the residents to help with this process, and it would be beneficial to have one comprehensive survey instead of inundating residents with separate surveys. She said that she would use her clout to try to get sustainability questions into the survey.

Ms. Hostert asked about the potential timing of the community-wide survey, and Ms. Lin responded that it may not be released until June of 2022. Ms. Hostert said that she would be interested in getting a survey out much sooner than this and not lose half a year waiting for results.

There was some discussion about the advantages of the flash survey services and the advantages of using something like Survey Monkey to survey residents. There was some discussion about how to develop survey questions. There was also some discussion about offering incentives to get people to take the survey.

There was additional discussion around how to develop questions. It was decided that each working group will develop a series of about 3 to 4 questions and submit them to Mr. Mawdsley by December 16. The Public Awareness working group will then review the questions and incorporate them into a comprehensive survey.

Ms. Hostert also shared a concept image of the redesigned landing page that Ms. Latham had put together. Ms. Hostert noted that some refinements were needed.

Mr. Mawdsley reviewed the progress for the sign purchases.

E. Recycle and Waste: The Village Donate and Recycle Day is scheduled for May 14, 2022. Many of the vendors have already been contacted to hold the date.

Ms. Hostert said the working group is meeting to develop sustainability checklists for events to help groups like the Park District with planning sustainable events.

9. GLENCOE COMMUNITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES (AS NEEDED)

A. Village: Mr. Mawdsley reported that the Village continues to progress towards installing its first EV Charging Station. The equipment is on order and the site work should be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Mawdsley also reported that the Village was going to acquire its first electric vehicle. Staff will be requesting board approval on December 16 for purchasing a Chevy Volt to replace a Ford Escape Hybrid to use as an administrative pool vehicle.

Mr. Mawdsley reported that the Glencoe Pumpkin Smash was put on by the Glencoe Community Garden (GCG), and it was a great success. Over 1,100 pumpkins, which totaled about 6 tons, were composted and diverted from landfills. During a post-event review meeting, the CGC organizers asked if there was any way for the Village to help promote composting. Mr. Mawdsley invited them to the Task Force Meeting to have that discussion.

Ms. Ronner said that because of the success of the pumpkin smash, the GCG realized there is a significant interest in composting. However, Ms. Ronner said they noticed that many people do not know how to do it, which leads to a lot of items being put in the community compost bins that should be there.

There was some discussion about the Village's existing composting program, which heavily relies on people opting in. The consensus is that the program is not well-publicized.

Ms. Ronner continued to give an overview of some of the GCG's programs and features, including composting, solar energy and youth education program. Mr. Gallagher said there are a lot of areas of mutual interest and he is looking forward to working with the group in the future.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business brought before the GSTF.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Mr. Mawdsley read a comment submitted from Glencoe resident Sheila Cohen who stated her opposition to a gas-powered leaf blower ban.

12. CLOSING FAREWELL AND ADJOURN

Then there being no further business to come before the GSTF, a motion to close the meeting was made by Ms. Culver and seconded by Ms. Culver. Being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.