

Green Commission Meeting
March 4, 2020
Minutes

Kris Tesar, Green Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. DeWater, Mayor Fritz, Mrs. Neuger, Mr. Neuger, Mrs. Nevans, Mr. Norwick, Ms. Sturgis, Ms. Tesar
ABSENT: Mr. Richman

Also Present: Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council

Ms. Sturgis made a motion seconded by Mrs. Neuger to approve the minutes of the Green Commission Meeting of September 4, 2019

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. DeWater, Mrs. Neuger, Mr. Norwick, Ms. Sturgis, Ms. Tesar

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Mayor Fritz, Mr. Neuger, Mrs. Nevans

MOTION CARRIED

Greening the Hills

-2019 Wrap-Up

Mr. DeWater reported that 2,383 pounds (1.19 tons) of material was collected and five tons of paper was shredded, so he feels it was a successful event.

- 2020 Events

Mr. DeWater stated that based on participation at the October 2019 Greening the Hills, we are going to have the event twice this year, and those dates have already been scheduled; for May 2 and September 12.

Ms. Tesar asked about fluorescent bulbs and what is to be done with them. Mr. DeWater stated that currently the Solid Waste District is still telling us to throw them in the trash along with incandescent bulbs. CFL (compact fluorescent light) bulbs can be brought to Lowes or Home Depot.

Ms. Tesar stated that resident, Connie Sancetta, brought different types of plastic items for a display table to show what can and cannot be recycled in our curbside program at the October 2019 Greening the Hills. Mayor Fritz stated that he missed that event but read about it in the minutes and thought it was a great idea. Ms. Tesar asked if Ms. Sancetta volunteered to do that. Mrs. Arrietta stated that she did and it was Ms. Sancetta's idea because of the confusion surrounding which plastics can and cannot be accepted. Ms. Tesar suggested it may be a good idea for Ms. Sancetta or this Commission to do that again at the next Greening the Hills.

Mr. Norwick informed members that he has called the Solid Waste District with questions and they are always very helpful. Mrs. Arrietta stated that the Solid Waste District always

encourages communities to tell their residents to call them with any questions.

2020 Recycling Grant

Mrs. Arrietta gave an update on the recycle grant. The Village applies for and receives this grant every year. She passed the application around for members to read. This year they increased the grant amount from \$5,000 to \$6,000. We requested \$5,658.00, but were approved for \$4,858.00, which she will explain in a moment. This year we requested six (6) heavy duty, double sided signs that will be placed throughout the Village to advertise the Greening the Hills events. These signs will replace the old “sandwich board” signs we used, which will look nicer and because they have a heavy base, hopefully will not be stolen like they have in the past. The posters can be changed out so we can use the signs for other events. Also included in the grant our twelve (12) posters for the signs, advertising Greening the Hills. It was decided to keep them vague, with no dates, so they can be used again (i.e. Greening the Hills, this Saturday). The shredding for both Greening the Hills events was also included as part of the grant. There was an availability problem with our normal shredding company; they were already booked for both dates, therefore we will have two different companies for each event; Shred-Rite for the May event and Iron Mountain for the September event. Ms. Tesar asked if the Village has ever used either of these companies before. Mrs. Arrietta stated that they have not because the original company that is used has always been reasonable and they always honor our price from year to year. Part of the reason we did not get those dates was because we were unsure if we were going to do two events for this year, so we did not book them far enough in advance. This year we will make that determination early, pick our dates, and lock in that original company as soon as possible.

Mrs. Arrietta stated that we requested two Greening the Hills mailers to send to the residents prior to each event and lawn and leaf bags to provide to residents for yard waste pick-ups. The reason that we ended up getting less grant award money is because the Solid Waste District decided not to give any community lawn and leaf bags as part of the grant. Instead of two Greening the Hills mailers, they asked if we could do one that will provide both event dates, and the other mailer would be an updated recycle flier, like the one that has been passed around tonight. They have a new message “Recycle Right in Moreland Hills.” Mrs. Arrietta showed them an example of the new mailer and informed members that the back side is blank so there are some options for us to customize it a little bit and put whatever other information on there that we feel is necessary.

Lastly, as part of the grant, but for no additional cost, the Solid Waste District is supplying each community with up to 1,000 reusable shopping bags. We requested 500 which we will distribute at Greening the Hills, by instructing residents to pick them up at Village Hall, and the Mayor has some plans for some other community events that we can hand them out at. Mrs. Neuger suggested providing them as part of the “new resident packet.” Mrs. Arrietta shared a picture of what they will look like. She shared an email that she received today informing communities that the delivery of the bags is delayed because they are coming from overseas; the factory has shut down because of the Coronavirus. They were planning on getting them to everyone by April so they could be used for Earth Day, but obviously it is out of their control.

Mayor Fritz stated that earlier Ms. Tesar mentioned having examples at Greening the Hills of what can and cannot be recycled, and he asked her what her thoughts were on doing a video for social media explaining it and showing some examples, in a fun and informative way. Ms. Tesar loved the idea and agreed to do it. She and Mayor Fritz will work on that together.

Updated on ODNR Grant/Capital Budget Request

Mayor Fritz stated that the commission is aware that the Village received \$150,000 from the Natureworks Grant, but since the last meeting, we have received the parameters on how and what to use the funds for and on. He stated that as far as the capital budget request, Mayor Renda prepared information with Senator Dolan and Representative Robinson for a request of capital budget funds and he has sent his letter of support to both of them as well. He met with Senator Dolan a few weeks ago on other topics and he thanked him for his assistance on this request. He stated that he was told that we should expect to hear by the end of March or early April if we will receive it. Mayor Fritz stated that we have never made a capital budget request before, and it is for good public use which benefits the whole community, both of which should help weigh the odds in our favor. He explained that the project is being looked at as a triad of funding; \$150,000 from the grant which we have secured, \$150,000 from the Village that we have committed to (which includes both dollars and sweat equity), and \$150,000 from the capital budget request from the State of Ohio. He stated that absent that last \$150,000, we are still moving forward with the demo of house, which should be sometime in April.

Mrs. Neuger asked if any of the materials in the house could be recycled. Mr. DeWater explained that after sending out quotes, C&J Contracting gave the lowest and best quote, but they want to own the salvaging rights. He will set up a meeting with them, on site, to find out what they want to salvage. Mayor Fritz stated that they have already arranged for the fire department and the police department to use the house for training, but those items will be removed before either of the trainings.

Green Commission Mission Statement

Ms. Tesar explained that she called Mrs. Arrietta to discuss this. She stated that she was wondering about the Green Commission's missions and goals because they have had two meetings as just the Green Commission and before that there was a hiatus while the new Parks Commission was being convened. The two commissions came together as the Green-Parks Commission in 2016 with various responsibilities. Now that we have a new Parks Commission, perhaps this commission should take this opportunity to revisit our mission and goals and come up with ideas on what we might do moving forward.

Ms. Tesar read the original Green Commission statement: "Our mission is to improve the quality of life and protect the fragile ecosystem of the Village of Moreland Hills." She stated that when she sees "protecting the fragile ecosystem," it overlaps with the Parks Commissions mission. She stated that the ordinance that established the Green Commission goes back to 2010 (Ordinance 2010-46) and she read Section 1. of the ordinance; 159.01 Establishment "A Green Commission of the Village of Moreland Hills is hereby established and charged with assisting Village government on issues of energy efficiency, recycling, sustainability." Ms. Tesar stated that she feels that covers a lot of things and is not sure that they currently do all of that, however, they should still be adhering to this ordinance.

She stated that she did some fact finding with other municipalities to see what their Green Commission's do. What she discovered was that Chagrin Falls only has a parks commission, South Russell only has a parks committee, and Orange Village does not have either. Ms. Tesar stated that everyone she spoke to was very interested in the fact that we have a Green Commission.

Ms. Tesar stated that she feels there is a lot of overlap of both commissions but she just wants it to be clear what the Parks Commission does and what the Green Commission does. Mayor Fritz stated that when you read the ordinance, it lists several parameters that could be undertaken by this commission, but it does not mean that we have to do every single one of them. He stated that the mission statement followed up by a statement that public education, interaction, and events, and defining the efforts, would be prudent.

Ms. Tesar asked Mr. DeWater how the Village is doing with separating things; leaving trash out of the recycling. What is happening at the MRF's. Mr. DeWater stated he and Vickie just finished the recycling report and sent it to the county. He stated that the MRF issued a blanket statement that everyone is right at 25% (or a little over) contamination rate. Some communities are a little worse and some are a little better, but that is the average. Ms. Tesar asked where Moreland Hills stands. Mr. DeWater stated that they could not tell us that unless they go through every truckload, but sometimes they come and do an evaluation. Mr. DeWater stated that one issue that causes contaminating is when cardboard gets wet, because it is no longer recyclable.

The biggest problem in our area are residents who put things in the curbside recycling that they feel "should be recycled." Ms. Tesar stated that the phrase used to be "when in doubt, put it in" and now it's "when in doubt, throw it out." She stated that we need to work on getting that message out there.

Ms. Tesar stated that she found out on the Orange Village website that they offered a "field trip" to Kimbal to their residents and asked if they could do the same. Mr. DeWater stated that the county sets it up on a regular basis so we can look on their website for those dates. He stated that he thinks they get a good response overall, but it would not just be for Moreland Hills. Mr. DeWater stated that he will call our representative or find out when the next one is through the county. He explained that we are part of a recycling consortium which the county contracted out for us so for the disposal of our materials. Believe it or not, we are still getting paid for our materials. This is probably the last year we will get paid, though because our contract is up this year, and now they want to start charging us. All the communities in the consortium had the county advertise for us as a whole to get more purchasing power and it was a long-term contract. The communities were actually approached last year because they want to start charging us but we all took a hardline that our contract states we do not get charged. But this year, when we go out for bids, that may change.

Mr. DeWater stated that the City of Cleveland is not recycling anything because of the amount of contamination- any recycling goes right to the landfill. He stated that one can of contamination can shut the whole system down at the MRF. Ms. Tesar stated that seeing the process at the MRF would be really helpful. Mr. Norwick asked if there are any statistics that we can cite so the residents can understand the repercussions of things. Mr. DeWater stated that the county's website has that information listed. Mayor Fritz stated that we could do something like "today's number is 1, the amount of plastic bags that can shut down the recycling facility, etc."

Mr. Norwick asked if there is some additional education we can offer. He stated that we could

be reiterating to people that wet cardboard is no good and stated that many times recycling carts are stuffed high, leaving the lid open which can contaminate the entire recycling cart if it rains. Mr. DeWater stated that is an issue as well as boxes not being broken down because it could shut down the machines at the MRF. Mayor Fritz stated that it sounds like there are some good opportunities for resident education through the website, newsletter, and Facebook.

Mr. Norwick asked about the top on the truck being open and whether things get wet that way if it's raining. Mr. DeWater stated that the top has a cover on it, because when items are dumped into the truck, there is a blade that pushes things back to an area that is enclosed.

Ms. Tesar stated that they obviously have a lot to do as it relates to recycling and messaging of proper recycling, and she asked if there was anything else as a commission they should be thinking about.

Ms. Sturgis referred back to the ordinance, where it states "sustainability" and asked if there is an opportunity to take a deeper look at other sustainability opportunities or issues. Ms. Tesar stated that also popped out at her and asked those that were on the original Green Commission if those issues were discussed then. Mr. DeWater stated that he believes when this commission started there were a lot of the solar panel issues coming up and it was discussed at our initial meetings promoting those type of things. The residents knew they could do it but how to do it needed to be determined. After that, Council passed legislation allowing solar panels. Mayor Fritz stated that perhaps that ordinance is one we can revisit.

Ms. Tesar asked if the ordinance establishing this commission is outdated and asked if ordinances can be updated or modified.

Ms. Sturgis stated that they do update/modify ordinances and asked Ms. Tesar if she feels that this ordinance is outdated. Ms. Tesar stated that she is not sure what this commission is doing for energy efficiency and sustainability. Mayor Fritz asked Ms. Sturgis if she agreed that the ordinance gives the commission a footprint to operate under and it does not mean that they have to necessarily donate equal time to all of the items listed. Ms. Sturgis agreed. Mayor Fritz stated that he does not feel they should be worried about not adhering to something; he feels that the more broad the ordinance, the more leeway it provides the commission to expand or contract depending on the situation.

Ms. Tesar stated that there is a rain garden workshop coming up which lead her to think about them as protecting the environment, but thought that would be something that the Parks Commission does. Mayor Fritz stated that the Parks Commission is focused nuts and bolts to the parks themselves. Ms. Tesar stated that a rain garden could still be under their purview then if the parks commission is looking at green spaces and utilization of those spaces. She stated that the Green Commission can be more broadly focused on sustainability, ecology and environmental issues across the board.

Mr. Norwick stated that the mission statement sounds more like a parks commission statement to him. He stated that as long we take on a 3 or 4 pronged approach, it leaves it open for us to do whatever, i.e. sustainability and issues such as "why are we using plastic bottles?"

Additional Members (Ordinance 2010-46)

Ms. Tesar stated that the ordinance addresses the membership and that members should be cycling on and off. She asked if that is okay that they have not been. Mayor Fritz stated that he has been finding out that some committees and commissions fell out of sequence for whatever reason, and stated that it is a good time to reign it in. The next appointments will be along the lines of what the structure should be so they will adhere to that. He stated that according to the ordinance, this commission still calls for it to have two (2) more members (it calls for 7 electors of the Village). Ms. Tesar asked for clarification of what an “elector” is. Mayor Fritz stated that it is a resident or in other words, a person who has the right to vote in the Village. Ms. Tesar asked if it was correct if that was differentiated from the Mayor, a member of Council, or an employee of the Village. Mayor Fritz stated that is correct.

Mayor Fritz stated that if any members have anyone that they know may be interested, to please let him know. Ms. Tesar suggested Connie Sancetta and Mrs. Arrietta stated that she can pass along her contact information to Mayor Fritz.

Mr. Norwick stated that they also need to look at the terms listed in that ordinance as well. Initially the seven electors were to serve four-year terms, but they were to be staggered where three electors would serve a two-year term and the other four would serve a four-year term. After the expiration of the initial two-year term, all elector members were to serve a four-year term. Mayor Fritz stated that is yet another thing that will need to be reeled in. Mrs. Nevans stated that she feels that a good way to get people interested is to give them an opportunity to be on this commission and have some members cycle off. Mayor Fritz stated that it does not mean that anyone has to cycle off; if a member is still interested when their term is up and there is not a lot of interest from others to join, we can reappoint them. He stated that there is something to be said for new members but also for those with experience.

2020 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Tesar stated that according to the ordinance, they are supposed to be meeting four times a year. She stated that they had been doing that all along, but they have lost a little bit of traction with the transition of separating the Green and Parks Commissions. Going forward, she stated that they should adhere to some type of schedule and questioned if four meetings a year was enough. Mrs. Arrietta stated that they had generally been meeting every other month, starting in February of every year.

Mayor Fritz stated that they can always call a meeting that was not scheduled as long as it is noticed beforehand, per the Sunshine Laws. Ms. Tesar stated that they should at least schedule four meetings for the year and if they need to, they can have more. Mrs. Neuger asked if the Kimbal visit would count as a meeting. Mayor Fritz stated that it could, but it would have to have an agenda and the meeting would have to be noticed like all other meetings are.

It was decided to stagger the meetings for this year so that it works out that they meet before both Greening the Hills events. Mrs. Arrietta will come up with dates, using their normal scheduled meeting time and day of week (5:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month) and send it out to the members tomorrow.

Mrs. Neuger asked if they are still going to bring food and snacks to Greening the Hills.

Members agreed that they will. Mr. Norwick suggested bringing the food in closer to the door so that people can see it, which might make them more apt to stay.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Tesar stated that Orange is doing CPR for their residents and asked if that is something we can do here in the Village. Mayor Fritz stated that it is and that he went to a meeting at Ahuja and they have offered all types of training, so it is on the radar.

Mr. DeWater stated that he can tell them the preliminary recycling numbers on the report for 2019: 534.13 tons of recyclable materials and 300.75 tons of compostable materials (chipping, leaves, logs). Mrs. Nevans stated that residents have to call every year with the size of their compost pile so it can be added to that list. Mr. DeWater stated that they will have to put that on social media so people can report it this year; every year we need it by December.

Mayor Fritz thanked all the members for being a part of this commission. He stated that he admires them because they volunteer their time. He thanked them for what they are all doing.

Mayor Fritz stated that Mr. DeWater's comments earlier tonight about we cardboard being an issue, is something that is being noticed. He stated that he also noticed on pick up days that residents have over flooded the bin and are leaning cardboard up against it. So, he and Mr. DeWater brainstormed on how to discourage that and they came up with an option for residents to run their cardboard boxes up to Village Hall and dump it here, which could be helpful especially with the increase in Amazon deliveries. He stated that they are looking at some options to adjust to the trend of having the cardboard here at certain times a year. Mr. DeWater stated that another issue is some of the items being left next to the cart end up blowing around and the Service employees have to pick it up. Ms. Tesar stated that if cardboard is stacked outside the cart the other issue is that the guys have to get out of the truck when everything is designed for them to stay inside for their safety. Mr. DeWater stated that is correct and that he does not want his employees to get out of the truck if they do not have to.

Mrs. Nevans made a motion seconded by Ms. Tesar to adjourn the meeting at 6:32p.m.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. DeWater, Mayor Fritz, Mrs. Neuger, Mr. Neuger, Mrs. Nevans, Mr. Norwick, Ms. Sturgis, Ms. Tesar

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council