



**CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Highland Park City Hall, Pre-Session Conference Room , 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance with the Statutes of the State of Illinois and the Ordinances of the City of Highland Park, a Meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Group of the City of Highland Park is scheduled to be held at the hour of 6:30 PM on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at the City of Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois, during which it is anticipated there will be a discussion of the following:

Individuals with questions or feedback about an agenda item can address the Advisory Group in the following ways:

1. **EMAILS FOR THE RECORD.** Email the Sustainability Advisory Group staff liaison, Sustainability Manager, Austin Knight at [aknight@cityhpil.com](mailto:aknight@cityhpil.com). If you wish to have your comments read into the record, limit your communication to 200 words or less. Public comments received by 3:00 PM the day of the meeting will be read under Business from the Public. Public comments should contain the following information:
  - In the subject line, identify, "SAG Meeting – Read into the Record
  - Name, Address, City Phone (optional)
  - Topic or agenda item number of interest
  - Organization or agency representing, if applicable
2. **EMAILS WITH UNLIMITED INFORMATION.** Individuals who do not wish to have their comments read into the record can email Sustainability Manager Austin Knight an unlimited number of words. Emails will be forwarded to the Sustainability Advisory Group if requested.
3. **TELEPHONE.** Individuals with no access to email may leave a message with Sustainability Manager Austin Knight at 847.926.1037 by 3:00PM day of meeting.
4. **LIVE COMMENTS.** Individuals are able to address the Commission/Advisory Group during the meeting. Questions/comments are limited to written testimony into the record or spoken comments, not both. Comments should be limited to three minutes or less.

---

**MEETING AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

- I. Roll Call**
- II. Approval of Minutes**
  - September 11, 2025 Regular Meeting
- III. Business from the Public**
- V. New Business**
  - (a) Action Item & Discussion: 2026 Work Plan
- VI. Other Business**
  - (a) City Staff Update
  - (b) Chairman Update
  - (c) Advisor Comments
- VII. Adjournment**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP OF  
THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, September 11, 2025

**MEETING LOCATION:** Pre-Session Conference Room – Highland Park City Hall  
1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois

---

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

At 6:00 PM, Chair Futterman called the Sustainability Advisory Group (“SAG”) regular meeting to order and Sustainability Manager Knight called the roll.

Advisors Present: Chair Futterman, Foerster, Klee, Fine

Advisors Absent: Advisors Geelhoed, Hopkins

Staff Present: Sustainability Manager Knight

Also Present: Student Advisor Amelia Griffin

**MINUTES**

**(a) Approval of the July 10, 2025 Sustainability Advisory Group Meeting Minutes**

Advisor Klee moved to approve the minutes. Advisor Foerster seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Futterman declared the motion passed.

**BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Action Item & Discussion: 2026 Work Plan & 2023-2027 Sustainability Plan**

Chair Futterman asked Sustainability Manager (“SM”) Knight to give an overview of the work plan.

SM Knight provided the proposed 2026 work plan compared to 2025.

Chair Futterman and SM Knight discussed how the plan would need to be finalized at the November SAG meeting.

Chair Futterman noted that the work plan is to focus on broad objectives and the conversation should focus on how topics can be modified or added.

Advisor Klee noted the difficulties in addressing methane gas and asked if that topic could be folded into a promotion of resident and commercial sustainability efforts.

Advisor Foerster pointed out that feedback for Climate Coach wasn't meaningful enough to warrant it being an objective. She noted that the objectives seem vague and requested they should be more specific.

Chair Futterman noted that historically they have had one objective be more specific but allowed the other objectives to be broader.

Advisor Klee emphasized allowing goals to be more broad allow for flexibility in case there are changes in the future with SAG and it allows the group to adapt better.

Advisor Foerster proposed putting bullet points under the focus areas to show some of the actions SAG will take to accomplish them.

Advisor Fine agreed that it can focus the group and motivate everyone to accomplish their task.

Chair Futterman concurred saying targeted goals allow for measurable actions compared to passive words like monitoring.

Advisor Foerster then discussed the group taking on a more active advisory role with more focused topics and under those actions to achieve said topics.

Advisor Klee proposed creating 3 pillars: Commercial, Residential, and Municipal, which would allow for overlap and flexibility.

SM Knight explained that if the wish of the group was to have more specific objectives, it can be done. He noted that in the past, specifics had been applied to updating Community Development's Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance documents.

Chair Futterman requested the group review the Sustainability plan to assist with actions that can be added or amended on the work plan. He requested SM Knight provide information as it relates to the Green Alliance

SM Knight provided information on the initial meeting and noted that the next meeting is set to take place on November 3, 2025.

Chair Futterman continued discussing some of the highlighted actions in the sustainability plan.

SM Knight mentioned that the current electric aggregation contract was set to expire this year. He explained that the project went out to bid with several program options being offered and in turn, local community reps ultimately chose to move forward with MC2 for a 2-year term, keeping the same format as the last contract. He noted that he wanted to bring this up as it includes funding to the City's sustainability fund. He stated that the agreement will be put before City Council on September 25th for approval.

Advisor Fine asked SM Knight about working with the Chamber of Commerce. She asked if SM Knight can also discuss barriers within the Sustainability Plan and what is currently being done to help SAG focus their efforts.

SM Knight says there has been progress made and that he will meet with them soon to discuss sustainability.

Chair Futterman requested a special meeting be called next month to meet in-person to work out the details of the 2026 Work Plan.

b) **Action Item: 2026 Sustainability Advisory Group Meeting Dates**

Chair Futterman asked SM Knight about the meeting dates and times for 2026.

SAG Advisors were in consensus to keep the meeting time and date as 6pm on the second Thursday of every other month starting in January.

c) **Discussion: New Members Outreach**

SM Knight explained that SAG will be down to four members and encouraged advisors reach out to any interested residents.

d) **Updates from Working Groups**

- **Communications (WP2c)**

SM Knight discussed the upcoming Speaker Series on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

- **Residential Methane Gas Reduction (WP2a)**

Chair Futterman stated that the Library has the induction stove available for loan and that he may try to schedule another demonstration program with the Library.

- **Discussion: Green Business Program**

Chair Futterman asked if there were any updates on the Green Business Program.

Advisor Fine indicated that there were no updates.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

a) **City Staff Update**

SM Knight provided an update on the Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Stretch Code Adoption Grant. He explained that the City was awarded the requested amount of \$160,230. He provided information on the new textile and clothing collection bin that will be located within the parking facility at The Moraine. He provided information on opportunities for SAG Advisors to volunteer at upcoming events. He noted that Assistant City Manager Jason was appointed to the Executive Board of SWALCO.

b) **Chair Update**

Chair Futterman noted there were no updates.

c) **Advisor Comments**

Advisor Klee mentioned they had their first 1.5 months of a heat pump and it is very quiet.

Advisor Foerster said they have an electric vehicle that they have enjoyed so far.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Advisor Foerster moved to adjourn Advisor Klee seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Futterman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Austin Knight, SM

DRAFT

## **FY2025-FY2026 SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

### **Jurisdiction and Purpose:**

The Sustainability Advisory Group (“SAG”) was established by Resolution R166-2018. The Sustainability Advisory Group is a recommending body to City Council and has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Provides advisory recommendations on matters related to the preservation, enhancement, management and protection of the City's environment and natural resources;
- Provides advisory recommendations pertaining to education, outreach, and communications regarding preservation and enhancement of the City's environment and natural resources;
- Provides advisory recommendations regarding proposed amendments and variations to environmental and natural resources-related policies, regulations, ordinances, and plans; and
- Provides advisory recommendations regarding implementation of and updates to the City’s Sustainability Plan.

### **FY2025-FY2026 Members:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>Julie Campbell</del></li> <li>• Jay Futterman</li> <li>• <del>Jori Fine</del></li> <li>• <del>Megan Geelhoed</del></li> <li>• <del>Marissa Hopkins</del></li> <li>• Michael C. Klee</li> <li>• Stephanie Foerster</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Liaisons: Lucas Hoobler, Amelia Griffin</li> <li>• Council Liaison: Anthony Blumberg</li> <li>• Staff Liaison: Austin Knight</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

*The Sustainability Advisory Group meets the second Thursday of every other month at 6:00 PM or as posted, as set forth in the SAG’s annually adopted meeting schedule.*

### **FY 2025-2026 Objectives**

1. ~~Develop~~ **Implement** pathway(s) for achieving long term goals of the 2023-2027 Sustainability Plan:
  - a. Reduction of GHG emissions by 45% by 2030
  - b. Reaching net zero carbon as community by 2035
2. Prioritize accomplishing goals laid out in the 2023-2027 Sustainability Plan; 202~~6~~**5** focus areas:
  - a. Residential & Commercial methane gas reduction
  - b. **Promotion of Green Business Activities Green Seal business program**
  - c. Community education/communications
  - d. Monitor waste, composting, recycling, and Greenhouse Gas output
  - e. Highland Park Environmental Award
  - f. Water conservation

~~3. Develop and budget for regional Sustainability Advisory Groups to meet together in a meaningful way in 2025 to network, exchange ideas, and identify regional sustainability objectives together.~~

### **Operating Expense Requests**

	<b>Amount</b>
Programming & Events: Arbor Day, Shred Events, Solar Home Tour, Election Sign Recycling, Compost Kitchen Pails etc included in the Sustainability Fund Budget.	\$7,900
<b>FY2025-FY2026 TOTAL REQUEST:</b>	<b>\$7,900</b>

Advisory Group FY2025 Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_