

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

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

At 6:02 PM, Chair Futterman called the Sustainability Advisory Group (“SAG”) meeting to order and Sustainability Manager Knight called the roll.

Advisors Present: Chair Futterman, Advisors Klee, Goldstone, Reinstein, Wesslund, and Scott

Advisors Absent: Advisor Donart

Staff Present: Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska, Sustainability Manager Knight, City Engineer Stawski

Also Present: Student Advisor Goldberg, Andrea Nosek

MINUTES

(a) Approval of the March 12, 2026 Sustainability Advisory Group Special Meeting Minutes

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

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

NEW BUSINESS

a) Introduction of New Member

Chair Futterman welcomed Advisor Scott.

Advisor Scott introduced herself. She discussed her sustainability interests and what she hopes to contribute to SAG.

b) Presentation: Proposed Bluff Restoration Project

Chair Futterman asked City Engineer (“CE”) Anna Stawski to present on a proposed bluff restoration project.

Discussion ensued between the Advisors and CE Stawski regarding the bluff restoration project and possible grant funding.

c) **Presentation: Eco-Hero**

Chair Futterman asked Go Green Highland Park's Andrea Nosek to present on the Eco-Hero program.

The Advisors and Ms. Nosek discussed the Eco-Hero program and the outreach that can be conducted with a variety of organizations. They discussed opportunities for the green business programs that are currently in place through Go Green Highland Park and Lake County. They decided the creation of a third program was not necessary. They opined on using social media and the Highlander to promote the existing green business programs and the requirements to be recognized as part of those programs.

d) **Discussion: Sustainability Sunday Posts**

Sustainability Manager ("SM") Knight requested the Advisors review the sign-up sheet for the available dates as it relates to Sustainability Sunday Posts. He noted that they only needed to sign-up for one date.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) **City Staff Update**

SM Knight discussed the successes of the City's Arbor Day event, compost giveaway event and the positive impact on the confidential document shredding as part of the compost giveaway event. He provided information on the Solar Power Hour and the North Shore Electric Homes Tour. He provided an update on the Illinois Energy Stretch Code work that is being conducted with Thornton Tomasetti and how the City will be joining the fifth EV Ready Cohort. He provided information on the discussion with the Council regarding an incentive program for businesses to reduce the use of single-use bags.

Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska noted there were still openings for participation in the Independence Day Parade and stated that Assistant City Manager Jason would be reaching out with more information.

b) **Advisor Comments**

Chair Futterman voiced his appreciation to SM Knight, as well as Advisors Goldstone and Klee for assisting with the Compost Giveback and Document Shredding event.

Advisor Klee voiced his excitement for the hydrogen powered vehicles he saw in California.

Advisor Scott indicated she was not part of a working group and accepted participation in the Natural Areas working group with Advisor Reinstein. She described her involvement Go Green HP and Go Green Deerfield. She provided information regarding the native garden tour that is taking place on July 11th.

Advisor Wesslund discussed his work with the electric climate coach.

Advisor Goldstone cautioned on the increase of ticks this season and provided information on the spring migration currently taking place.

Student Liaison Goldberg discussed work that is being done to get recycling setup at the high school.

Advisor Reinstein and Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska discussed the gas powered leaf blower ban and ways to report the use of gas powered leaf blowers.

ADJOURNMENT

Advisor Rienstien moved to adjourn Advisor Wesslund seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Futterman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Austin Knight, SM