



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

Thursday, September 10, 2026
6:00 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 6:00 PM on Thursday, September 10, 2026 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. 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

- July 9, 2026 Regular Meeting

III. Business from the Public

V. New Business

- (a) Action Item & Discussion: 2027 Work Plan
- (b) Action Item: 2027 Sustainability Advisory Group Meeting Dates
- (c) Working Groups Update
- (d) Continued Discussion: Stretch Codes

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, July 9, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

At 6:00 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, Scott, and Donart (arrived at 6:15pm)

Advisors Absent: None

Staff Present: Sustainability Manager Knight

Also Present: Kenneth Griffin & Prudence Ferreira, with Thornton Tomasetti

MINUTES

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

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

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

NEW BUSINESS

a) Presentation: IL Stretch Energy Code

Chair Futterman asked Kenneth Griffin and Prudence Ferreira, consultants from Thornton Tomasetti, to present on IL Energy Stretch Code.

Discussion ensued between the Advisors and Thornton Tomasetti regarding the stretch code, possible funding gaps and additional costs, and compliance.

Discussion amongst Advisors took place regarding pathways and their preferences. They focused on the benefits of modular path 4, which would add appendices to the Code. They discussed concerns regarding the modular path and that pathway might stall progress if there was a lack of political will compared to just adopting the codes. They noted that most of Highland Park is built out and the greater impact will be in new construction.

b) Presentation: Reusable Bag Incentive

Chair Futterman asked Sustainability Manager (SM) Austin Knight to present on the Reusable Bag Incentive.

The Advisors and SM Knight discussed the initial bag fee for the incentive with the staff proposed 15 cents as the starting point, 50/50 split, and an annual increase.

Advisors stated that Highland Park should be a leader in banning plastic bags. They discussed the possibility of the split being more for the City instead of the 50/50 split with the merchant since these would be funds going into the Sustainability Fund. They discussed the common exemptions staff recommended and felt that the category of prescriptions should not be exempt. They discussed the qualifiers for inclusion in the Reusable Bag Incentive with the staff proposal of it being based on square footage and 3,000 sqft as the threshold.

c) Discussion: Working Groups

Chair Futterman asked each working group to provide an update on their activities.

Communications Working Group

Advisor Goldstone discussed how her difficulties with attempting to get in contact with the Lake County Audubon society, as well as her contribution to the quarterly Sustainability eNews regarding Blue Herons. She added that if there was a need, she could provide photography for SAG events.

Energy Working Group

Advisor Klee discussed efforts to reduce residents' carbon footprints via carbon offsets. He explained that the City could add a charge to the water bill and allow residents to choose where the donation could go. He noted that the donations could be used for direct grant opportunities, a public private partnership with a government, or possibly using them for an energy source, such as community solar.

Natural Areas Working Group

Advisors Reinstein and Scott discussed how they reviewed the sustainability plan and noted that crafting educational materials for property owners to reduce invasives and increase native planting would be a focus area. They stated that their working group would be meeting with City staff later this month.

Go Green Business Working Group

Advisor Reinstein mentioned they met with Go Green Highland Park and discussed a potential partnership with them regarding their green business program called Eco-Hero.

The Advisors and SM Knight discussed the City and SAG's involvement.

Advisor Reinstein made a motion to provide support and amplify Go Green Highland Park's EcoHero Program provided the Sustainability Advisory Group is part of the selection process and final decision on award recipients. Advisor Goldstone seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Futterman declared the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) City Staff Update

SM Knight provided information on the new EV for the Police Department as well as the Northbrook Electric Homes Tour. He discussed the need for Advisors to sign up for Sustainability Sunday posts. He highlighted the Sustainability eNewsletter, which was recently launched, as well as the potential future speaker series on heat pumps. He provided an update on the Illinois Energy Stretch Code work that is being conducted with Thornton Tomasetti and on the renovation/reconstruction of the City's Public Services Building and Fire Station #34 located at 1150 Half Day Rd.

b) Advisor Comments

Chair Futterman noted that there was a vintage car show on August 22nd that will include electric vehicles, which he is working on getting more electric vehicles to be part of it.

Advisor Reinstein wanted to attend multiple events such as the ones on IL stretch energy code, but could not due to other commitments and would like them to have a virtual option so more people could attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Advisor Klee moved to adjourn. Advisor Reinstein seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Futterman declared the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Austin Knight, SM

FY2027 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.

FY2026 Members:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Futterman • Michael C. Klee • Hannah Donart • Cara (Paige) Goldstone • Evan Reinstein • Jessica Scott • Sean Wesslund | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Liaisons: Nate Goldberg • Council Liaison: Anthony Blumberg • Staff Liaison: Austin Knight |
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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 2027 Objectives

1. 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; 2026 focus areas:
 - a. Communication
 - Community Education
 - Climate Coach
 - Sustainability eNewsletter
 - Highland Park Environmental Award
 - b. Energy
 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction
 - c. Natural Areas
 - Air, water, soil quality
 - Craft Educational Materials
 - Identify Volunteer Opportunities
 - d. Green Business
 - Promotion of Green Business Activities: Eco Hero