

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
2024-3-26**

ATTENDANCE

Erica Nikolic, President*
Eloise Hardin, Ward 2**
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3**(*)

ABSENT

Brian Thompson, Finance Director	Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor	Gary V Gottschalk, Mayor
James Climer, Law Director	Tom Haba, Service Director
Dave Tapp, Fire Department	Mark Garratt, Police Department
Johnnie Warren, President Pro-Tem	Matt Jones, Village Engineer
Mary Davis, Ward 4	Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official
Candace Williams, Ward 5	Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1

*Arrived after roll call

*Chairman of Environmental Committee

** Members of Environmental Committee

Meeting opened at 5:35pm by Nikolic
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Nikolic: So, we'd like to begin our presentation with Elena Stachew. She's going to present options for climate action plans for the Village. **Stachew:** Hello everyone, (inaudible) I would be happy to talk about that a little bit. So, that was the organization, and your Village joined I believe, in 2022. And I will send that resolution so you can see it. And that's where the Village joined PCSO, which is a free, statewide nonprofit organization. Where we provide free technical resources to communities across the state of Ohio. We just got 50 communities, which is very exciting. And so, what I wanted to share with you all because Erica had brought up to me. Wanting to find a right sized fit plan to pursue for Oakwood Village. Given its size and what you're all interested in. So, what I'm showing you is a memo we have prepared, for you all to look at the different options. Like sizes of plans, as well as some example plans of similar sized communities in the Midwest. So, this first graphic is showing basically the three types of plans that exist. And it goes from top to bottom, smallest to largest or least amount of work required to the most amount of work required. Is one way to look at it, sustainability memo is just where I feel like we might all fit to start, and it can be a couple of pages. You know, five pages max, try to prioritize a list of near and mid-term city led sustainability goals and strategies and we can help. I'll walk through how you come up with that list of how you prioritize. This climate action plan is an extension of that. So oftentimes you can attach your memo as an addendum. And you might be adding a greenhouse gas emissions inventory specifically. Which is something we actually can do pretty well. So, we can show you guys that, of like where the emissions are coming from in your community, from transportation, from buildings, to electricity usage. And it also can include climate mitigation and adaptation goals. So how do you adapt to the changes that are taking place, not just dealing with emissions reduction. And then our sustainability plan

really aligns with social and economic benefits to your community. But communities can choose to be a part any of these. It really just depends on what you all want to do. But I assumed given a right size fit, it would be good to start with the sustainability memo first. And then work on other pieces you all might want to do as a community. So, just give me a step to scroll through this because it's text that you can read later. It describes basically what I said in text form. So, when choosing the right plan, these are some questions that we suggest a city or a village consider, it's like the scope. What are existing gaps in your city's goal setting, documents, and strategies, do you have an existing budget for plan development broadly that sustainability or climate action could fit into, what's the current capacity of Village Council or staff, and what current data assets does the city have? They are pretty general questions we'll get into in a little bit. And then we wanted to, in terms of if you say, thinking about a sustainability memo right. You might want to consider some key priority areas. We suggest, for memos, that you consider the first four to six. So, in this list we've got energy efficiency and buildings. So, we're thinking about new builds, retrofitting, or renovating, older housing stock, like what that might look like. Climate change adaptation and resilience, that's like disaster preparedness almost. Like major flooding events, major storm events, just how you can help residents prepare for increased risk to, like public health threats. Like if we think about the air quality that we had back in last summer because of the wildfires. Which is scary to think about when I think back to that time. Renewable energy suggested increasing share of renewable energy. That perhaps if the residents purchase, you know, through like an aggregation program, like the NOPEC options. Transportation and mobility, so that's like where the electric vehicles piece kind of fit in. Waste management and natural resources management in green space and parks. There are other pieces here, but I wanted to mention at least the first six as a starting point to economic development, land use, diversity, equity, and inclusion. I'm just going to. And then in this table, what we do is what we give you is an idea of some exemplary strategies to follow. So, if there's a summit of interest to, oh my gosh, really pursue, that can really start to build up that priority list for you in these areas. So, in this table we have these are just strategies we've seen from cities across the country. And what they continually adopt as a strategy to reduce their emissions, that you can look through. And then what we did here that I wanted to show you all was we have linked plans for review. So, this would be, again, cities of like size within Grand Marais, Minnesota. **Hardin:** You have a recommended plan, where did that come from? **Stachew:** These are recommended plans for review. Or do you mean where do we find these plans for the community? **Hardin:** No, what made you... **Stachew:** Oh, choose those plans? **Hardin:** Yes. **Stachew:** We were trying to choose cities of similar population size and demographics, as well as being based on my last. Those were our factors in choosing, so we wanted to stay within the Midwest. Because the challenges of, say, that renewable energy generation are fairly similar, housing stocks are similar. And then we chose, based on the size of your population and your demographics. And try to match that as best as we can to other villages that have more cities that had plans. **Hardin:** So, are you saying we can just take this, or do you still want us to come up with our own? **Stachew:** It's really up to you, so, these are plans just to review as to what other cities have done. So, this is a 23-page grant from the city of Grand Marais, Minnesota. You can look through it and decide if you like some elements of it or not. You also don't have to go for 23 pages like I recommend five to ten pages. You could really start with that table of those priority areas and really come up with some strategies you want to implement. That's one way to do it, so they're just some things to look at so you can get inspiration. **Hardin:** Okay. **Stachew:** So, there's a couple in here, so I just wanted to showcase that we got a couple in Minnesota, Wisconsin,

Oberlin, Ohio, and Greensburg, Kansas. But the one thing I wanted to end on was we have three parts. So, this is actually how you can start building a plan. So, you can say we're going to do a sustainability plan, let's say we try to keep it to ten pages. For our next or those first six priority areas and come up with some strategies. You can use these forms that we've prepared. And literally walk through it as a committee or as you know, like as city staff. And what it does is it's a form that just gets you just to think through the different parts of how this plan process could go. And then basically it creates one. If you do say all three parts, we get that information that kind of creates a road map that we can send back to you. It's like kind of like your first draft of a plan, and it just makes it a little bit easier to walk through because it's a little fun. **Hardin:** Do you have a format for the time frame you would expect us to operate within these steps that you're giving us? **Stachew:** We follow the city's timeline, so if you think over the next year or the next six months is reasonable. That's typically what we recommend for a plan of this size. But again, if it takes longer... **Hardin:** That would be something we needed to answer to. **Stachew:** Yeah, and these Google forms do take time. So, what I'm suggesting maybe is if you all decide to walk through this together. And you get stuck at certain points, you're welcome to email or call me and we can walk through that stuff. So that's what I wanted to show you at least, in terms of that memo. It kind of provides like if you follow those Google forms, you take a look at those recommended plans. And then you look at those list of ten priority areas and those exemplary strategies. It gives you enough of a bare bone structure to start from. The other thing I do want to mention, just because we do offer this. We do have greenhouse gas inventory for our community. So, if you all would like one, we can run one for Oakwood Village. So, we can do it based on estimated data. We don't necessarily need data from you all, but if you say or city engineer or someone in public works collects utility data. The more accurate data we have about Oakwood Village, the better that inventory is. And basically, what it shows you, it has what's called a scenario planner. Basically, you see this graph here, right. So, it's metric tons of CO₂, carbon dioxide equivalent and years. So, we will take the baseline forecast just like where your emissions are today. And like if business as usual, this is what it would be. And then if you go to the right there's these different options. So, you can say we want to increase home electricity efficiency citywide. Maybe the goal we might want to set for ourselves by 2030 is 15% higher. Say we want to increase residential solar adoption by 25%. And maybe we want to increase our (inaudible) canopy by 10%. What we'll do is that scenario with that green dotted line. Will start to drop down to show you. Based on the targets you're kind of setting for yourself as a community. Across different years, how your emissions will reduce. So it's really a cool visual, I think. And if there's pieces in here that you want to see added. We have wastewater consumption, a lot of different things. But if you want a different option added, like we really want to explore what happens if we do this action. And how that would reduce our emissions over time. So, that's something, I just wanted to show you those two pieces. Because I feel like the sustainability plan can kind of craft with those documents in that memo on your own time. But if you think the data piece, the emissions inventory would be helpful. Of course, we can schedule an introductory kind of walk-through with our technical analyst John Paul Diversa. And he would start in April or May, starting the new greenhouse gas metrics. Because he has a backlog of communities he is finishing up right now. About April or May is when he'll start new ones. **Hardin:** This is good, and the only thing we talked about before was the practicality of this area having an electrical station here. Do you recall that? **Stachew:** You might have to remind me. **Hardin:** Can we use that as our objective? **Stachew:** I'm just not sure what you mean by electrical station. **Hardin:** The last time the whole group of you were here. We were talking

about the practicality of electric cars. Just a general statement and with that, someone said well, what would it take if we bring some down at Sam's Club or the hotel. You remember that? If we had something like that here, do you remember that? **Stachew:** Yeah, it's ringing a bell, I'm putting in charging infrastructure. **Hardin:** You got to help me because the bell's don't ring like they used to. **Stachew:** That's okay, so it's electric vehicle charging. **Nikolic:** We also talked about that, so maybe a little more recent thing for you. **Matlock:** Yeah, no, we brought it up last year, was it last year they were here? I think last year or two years ago we were talking about the electrical or the stations being placed in Sam's Club and perhaps, the hotel. Because of the fact that it generates a lot of business in that area. We think you're right off the highway. People are getting these new EVs, and where would they charge that close to proximity when you're at a hotel? We were thinking, okay, we put some over there and Sam's Club, which is across the street, right? That could be a plus for us, especially vacation time. Because they're looking for those charging units when they are vacationing. **Hardin:** I don't mean to distract you, but I just thought I'd, you know, kind of make sure that I'm following some continuity. These are some of the things that you've done and how you went about it. But in keeping in mind that that was one of the things we talked about. **Stachew:** Yeah, so I mean, if you wanted to explore that EV charging stations route. There's a couple of ways you could do it. There are a couple different operators of EV charging infrastructure throughout the country. In which we've facilitated calls with them and with the city or Village like yourself. And they talk about their financing model, like, do they install it for you? What's their maintenance plan? Is it a free public charging infrastructure or is there a charge? **Hardin:** Okay. **Stachew:** So, we can facilitate a couple of those calls based on different commercial partners that I work with in cities across the state. NOACCA also, the Northeast Ohio area wide coordinating agency, received a \$15 million grant for electrical electric vehicle charging infrastructure. In their plan, they listed like 40 to 60 something charging stations across northeast Ohio. I don't know if they've contacted Oakwood Village to be like, we want to put charging stations in your Village. Because they're reaching out to municipalities that they listed in our plan. To determine where the best place is for that charging infrastructure. They're asking for a 20% cost match for this grant. So that's another avenue to look at. Lastly, we have a group called Electrification Coalition. That's like on the team with me at PCSO that talks about all of this. So, they can talk through the different options of different ways you can go for financing and how you're going to go about installing those charging infrastructure. So, they're based, one of them is based in Columbus. So, if there was a way to do something like a zoom call during your meeting, that might be easier or sometimes. But that was something that we could set up. **Hardin:** I just wanted to kind of bring it home where we are. I didn't mean to stop you. **Stachew:** Yeah, there are ways to do that too. I actually stopped here because I wanted to be like, here's the plan, here's the inventory. And see if you all have questions. **Nikolic:** Thank you so much, Elena, so for us, action steps to starting the plan. Reviewing the prior proposals and then, of course, starting with choosing priorities for our Village. And some, some specific ones, community health, we're going to do some environmental testing, energy efficiency buildings, climate adaptation and resilience. There were some conversations with FEMA. We were at a conference, a week ago, and I've made some contacts with FEMA. They're going to come and speak. So, all of April, we're going to have stakeholder presentations from Michael Benson's corporation. Do you know rap? **Stachew:** Yep. **Nikolic:** So, he wanted to come, so next month they'll all do some presentations. But I wanted to while we have the opportunity Mr. Siggers, would you like to introduce yourself? **Siggers:** Hi everyone, I am Brian Siggers, I am the Cleveland Metro Advocacy for the Ohio Environmental

Council. **Nikolic:** So, Mr. Segers, I had the pleasure of meeting him at the Black Environmental Leaders Scholarship luncheon. And I spoke with him about our recycling program and how he got Cleveland up to speed on their recycling with Mayor Bibb. So, I would definitely love to loop in Mr. Siggers to help us continue building this plan. So, I'm glad to see you here and the misses, congratulations on your wedding. So, we have a meeting starting at six. But what we would love to do is we're going to, in our next meeting, just review the plans, identify priorities. And, next month is Earth day, Arbor Day and then we can go over some other things relating to our plan. But that would be our first opportunity to identify our priorities and just start building out our plan. So, if you intend to come back at our next environmental committee meeting. Maybe we could send you a draft of something beforehand or we can maybe work through it.

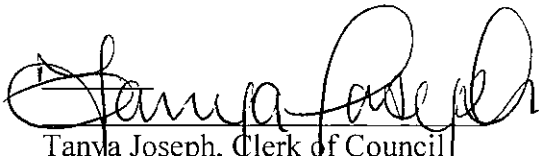
Stachew: Yeah, or if you want to do more fact finding first because you're kind of going to present. To kind of influence what strategies you might choose. We can always invite reconvene at the end of April. It might be a good time for you to share a draft. And I could talk about would you want to incorporate that inventory as like a data kind of piece or not. That might be a good point to reconvene. **Nikolic:** Right, and I like the I like the greenhouse gas inventory. But how do you come up with the percentages? Is it based on what you want to happen in the Village?

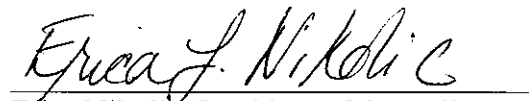
Stachew: So, we can advise you on like what percentages are like realistic targets to start. And it you could change just because for one, what I showed you is from University Heights. Just like the community size is a little bit different. So, depending on how many houses you have, let's say 10% is more achievable than, say, 25. So it's quite a few and then we can talk through how to set those targets initially. **Nikolic:** Okay great, well thank you very much. Moving on to agenda item number four, Earth Day. So, the discussion of Earth Day on next month, we spoke with the County about getting some trees to plant with the community. So, the County has, Soil and Water has agreed to donate some trees for us to plant. The Service Department identified some land around Rome to plant the trees in connection with youth in that area. So, that would be on April 28th. Northeast Ohio electric car vehicle, they'd like to come and display some electric vehicles and that would be on the 27th. And so that day, I'm looking to maybe have a lot of different things going on. There's a gentleman called Hood Honey; he actually brings a demonstration for honey. And as a part of an environmental demonstration, I'd love to get more ideas about how we can kind of build out our Earth Day. As this is our first attempt at doing the Earth Day. The initial day would be formed around the electrical vehicle display. And then start to change and shift the mindset about driving electric vehicles. And once that's completed, we can find other things. You know, maybe some games and things for the kids to boost the recycling education as well. Maybe some food vendors, so I'm open to suggestions about what we can do for that. And, if there's any ideas, we can keep that discussion going. But that would be all of April, it's Arbor Day and Earth Day during that month. So, that concludes that discussion, are there any questions about Earth Day or any of the activities? **Hardin:** So, this is the first I'm hearing of it. So, will you give us all of this in writing? And this has all been planned already? **Nikolic:** Just the dates have been set, but nothing has been planned. In order to get the trees and everything, you got to kind of get out there and let them know you want to do something. So, they let you know when they're available. So, those are the days they are available because, you know, it fills up pretty quickly. They have events at the zoo and a lot of other communities that are already established. So, you know, we just took a day that they would be available to come and plant. **Hardin:** Who is this again? **Nikolic:** The county, Soil and Water, we went to their luncheon at the Music Box. **Hardin:** Oh, so we do this every year. **Nikolic:** I don't know if you...but there are two aspects. The planting of the trees and then trying to do an

Earth Day event. As you know, the electric car organization will come and display the cars and hopefully get some other. **Hardin:** Planting of the trees is something... what day is it? **Nikolic:** The 28th. **Hardin:** Of March? **Nikolic:** April. **Hardin:** Oh, boy, I'm sorry, like I said, the trees we've done every year. Because the trees in the quadrant at the freeway... **Nikolic:** Right, she mentioned that, on the 27th, the electrical vehicles will come and be displayed. And we're trying to get some similar activities scheduled around that car display. So, it wouldn't just be the cars, it would be Hood Honey, and some other stakeholders that could come and educate the community. **Hardin:** Are you saying that would tie into the electrical outlets? **Nikolic:** No, it's just a way to educate the community. Just an event to start people thinking about Earth Day. **Hardin:** Oh, okay, I got it. **Nikolic:** Okay, any other questions or discussions? Hearing none, may I have a motion to adjourn?

Motion to adjourn made by Hardin seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Hardin, Matlock
MOTION PASSED
Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved 8.27.24


Tanya Joseph, Clerk of Council


Erica Nikolic, President of Council