

**VILLAGE OF GURNEE  
GURNEE CARES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 27, 2025  
**TIME:** 7:09 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Community Room at Village Hall  
located at 325 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee, IL

**1. Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm
- In Attendance: Patrick French, Rachel Chenier, Beth Pope, Susan Squires, Brooke Hagstrom, Liz Nelson, Gale Graves, Kevin Woodside, Matt Trujillo
- Absent: Malcom Kelly, Candy Reimholz, Roger Moreano, Mark Froseth, Bryson King
- Public in attendance: Yeshwant Sanzgiri

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Public Comment**

- Yeshwant Sanzgiri introduced himself but had no public comment.

**4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

- **December 9, 2025**
  - Brooke mentioned a misspelling of her name. Matt will correct this.
  - Gale made a motion to approve the minutes, and Liz made a motion to second it. The group approved the minutes.

**5. New Business**

- **Discussion/Review of Grant Applications**
  - Kevin thanked the subcommittee for their work on the grant application review.
  - Gale and the subcommittee talked about how they organized the applications by creating a framework, conducting interviews, and developing evaluation criteria. The subcommittee of Liz, Rachel, and Gale then went through the 6 applications that they reviewed.
  - **Mothers Trust Foundation:**
    - Will not use a fiscal agent or need funds up front.
    - Funds are only for Gurnee students due to pre-vetting applications through township and schools.
    - Focuses on housing and utility needs, summer camps, and increasing Gurnee's local impact.
    - Helped 108 students last year with a well-established grant application system.
    - This organization operates with a strong budget and a track record of success; saw a 40% increase in applications of need from January to September.
    - Funds are only allocated to Gurnee schools (Woodland, District 56, and District 121); the \$30,000 grant would help increase the number of students served in Gurnee Schools.

- **Prairie State Legal:**
  - Will use funds for housing-related issues, which make up 50% of Gurnee's cases.
  - Prairie State Legal will serve about 20 residents, estimating \$1,500 per legal issue. They will not charge for simple questions from residents. The funds will be used for legal services for residents.
  - Funds are specifically for Gurnee residents. This will help with prevention of eviction.
- **Blue Devil Food Pantry:**
  - Aims to expand from a pilot project to a full-fledged pantry with a specific location and more offerings.
  - Money will be used to get shelves and supplies. Then after the summer they will re-stock the shelves.
  - Open to any Warren Township High School student, with no application required.
  - This project is student-led, with a teacher sponsoring it. The pantry is staffed by the special ed program.
  - They will source food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank; funds will be managed by a teacher sponsor at the O'Plaine campus. The money will be going through Warren Township High School.
- **A Safe Place:**
  - This grant will go towards emergency food, shelter, and client transportation.
  - They have 131 Gurnee residents that have received Wraparound direct services.
  - 34 shelter residents, 10 receiving shelter food and transportation, 560 receiving education.
  - All funds will directly support Gurnee residents with food, shelter food and transportation.
  - All their clients are affected by domestic violence or human trafficking.
- **Erie Family Health:**
  - Supports Gurnee residents with medical devices, diapers, food, and other medical needs.
  - \$10,102 for personnel (transportation and salary), \$13,105 for supplies to support medical needs.
  - Served 503 Gurnee residents last year.
- **Keeping Families Covered:**
  - Distributes hygiene products (diapers, pull-ups, period and incontinence products).
  - In 2025 they served 2,240 individuals in Gurnee. They distributed 101,000 diapers/pullups, 64,000 period supplies, and 3,000 incontinence products to Gurnee residents through 12 distributions.
  - Already impacting Gurnee and will expand partnerships, including with the Warren Newport Public Library.

- Rachel suggested inviting agencies to events like Safety Stars and Dilly Bars.
  - Kevin and Susan made a motion to approve the 6 applications, including Mothers Trust Foundation, Prairie State Legal, WTHS Blue Devils Food Pantry, A Safe Place, Erie Family Health, and Keeping Families Covered, at the amounts discussed, and to advance these applications to the Village Board for approval. Beth seconded the motion; all eyes, all approved.
  - Kevin would like to do another application period before the fiscal year ends and potentially funding three organizations in the next round (April 20). Next meeting the group will be selecting possibly six organizations to be reviewed for the next round.
- **Approval of Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule**
    - The group discussed a 2026 meeting schedule, and many ideas and dates were talked about. The group decided to have two meetings to finalize a second round of grant applications to be presented to the village board. The next Gurnee Cares Commission meetings would be on Tuesday, February 10 at 7pm and Tuesday, March 31 at 7pm. Beth made a motion to approve the meeting schedule and Gale seconded. All were in favor.

#### **6. Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

#### **7. Adjournment**

- Patrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Brooke made a motion to second it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities are required to contact Austin Pollack, Assistant to Village Administrator, at (847) 599-7500 promptly to allow the Village to make reasonable accommodations for those persons. [www.gurnee.il.us](http://www.gurnee.il.us)