

**Village of Gurnee
Environmental Sustainability Committee
Agenda**

DATE: December 5, 2023

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room A at the Gurnee Village Hall located at
325 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee IL

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a) Karen called the meeting to order at approximately 3:31 p.m.
- b) Roll Call: Chair Karen Thorstenson, Rebecca Adler, Dan Helgren, Meg Beckley, Steve Heroux and Brian Penticoff
- c) Other Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator
- d) Public in Attendance: Zoe Zwiefelhofer

2. Approval of the November 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Dan made motion to approve it, Brian made a motion to second it. The minutes were approved.

3. New Business

A. Approval of 2024 Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting Schedule

Austin stated that he put together the new schedule for next year, excluding the two months of January and August that the committee had requested to cancel.

Meg made a motion to approve it, Dan made a motion to second it. The schedule was approved.

4. Discussion Items

A. SWALCO Presentations on Native Plantings/Healthy Yard Practices and more

Austin stated that SWALCO is looking to offer a variety of virtual presentations to the public on different topics such as Native Plantings, Healthy Yard Practices and composting. If the committee was interested, he would contact SWALCO to arrange for them to take place this spring.

B. Possible Hefty ReNew Bag Program/Plastic Baling

Austin spoke about the Hefty Renew Bag Program and that SWALCO is trying to launch the program and get it set up. He stated and communicated information sent by the SWALCO Executive Director Walter Willis "that we need to have the haulers agree to collect the Hefty Renew bag (it is orange) at the MRF prior to processing. Once we know which MRFs agree to participate we can work backwards to the towns they haul are expected to know in a few weeks. If I were to guess, LRS will participate, Groot is a maybe and WM is a no. We will wait until you hire your next hauler and then determine if that hauler wants to participate. Then you can decide if you want to have the Village implement the program. It does take time to get the retailers to agree to change what they put on their shelves (they do this once a year around March we were told by Hefty, with pitches made to them in August prior to determine if they will open up shelf space), so we are likely looking at launching spring 2025."

Austin explained Waste Hauling Service and stated the Village is currently bidding out/soliciting a RFP for residential waste hauling services and the hope is that the Village would be able to participate, but would have to see what the bids turn out to be.

C. Legislation:

1. Illinois Senate Bill SB0085 - Creates the State Beverage Container Recycling Refunds Act
2. California Legislation to Reuse Large Plastic Containers

Karen explained the impact of Illinois Senate Bill SB0085 and California Legislation to Reuse Large Plastic Containers. She went on further to explain on how some policies could be enacted at a variety of levels of government and that policies may make sense in one area but not another.

Additional Conversation:

Steve mentioned a Crayon depository and spoke about how the Village may be able to put one out at the Village Hall. Austin stated that it may not be the best location.

Steve mentioned that the crayon initiative/recycling would make a good addition to the Gurnee Green Award and Austin stated that he can revise the form.

Steve also share some information regarding Prairie Crossing School.

Karen and some members expressed interested in taking a tour of CLCJAWA and Austin stated that he could reach out to Bill Soucie to see if it was possible.

Zoe mentioned that her high school is looking for projects and goals for the upcoming year. Karen suggested that the textiles bin may be a good idea and Austin stated that we could share some initial textiles recycling bin details with the high school.

Dan mentioned that garbage incineration is something that is done in Europe. Austin stated that European habits are different than Americans, so it may not be viable in the U.S., but he can share some educational information regarding it and inform the group.

Rebecca had asked if enough time beginning in February to share recycling event information. Austin stated that the committee would have enough time if they narrowed down the event dates at the February meeting.

Steve shared some thoughts on solar panels and inquired about a way to highlight solar panel or even geothermal usage/general endorsement and was wondering if there was a way that the Village could incentivize solar panel installation for businesses.

Austin mentioned that he endorsed a solar project on behalf of the Environmental Sustainability Committee for Cube smart and could share some information on it.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned approximately 1 hour after the start.