

**Village of Gurnee
Environmental Sustainability Committee
Minutes**

DATE: July 11, 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) The meeting started at approximately 3:31 p.m.
- b) Roll Call: Karen Thorstenson, Shelley Lazarus, Dan Helegan, Rebecca Adler, Meg Beckley, and Brian Penticoff
- c) Other Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator
- d) Public in Attendance: None

2. Approval of May 2, 2023 and June 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Dan Helegan made a motion to approve the minutes, Shelley Lazarus second it. The minutes were approved and entered into the recorded.

3. New Business

Karen and Austin discussed the Village's funding structure and how the Village finances it's operations.

Austin stated that he was at a SWALCO event and they shared that the Village of Gurnee had the highest volume for textile recycling. He also stated that next year, the Village should have year over year recycling data from the SWALCO. Karen stated how the textile recycling works.

Meg asked if there was a sustainability club at Warren. Austin stated that he believes that the Mother Earth Program is the only one, however Karen brought up the idea of incorporating the Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative in going to the schools and educating the youth about recycling. The group then discussed the varying options of utilizing an education program. Karen stated that she is waiting on Merleanne from SWALCO to receive some more information.

Austin stated that he plans to share recycling information in the fall newsletter.

Shelley stated that she found out that Waste Management does put stickers on the lids of bins for recycling errors as well as stickers on how to recycle right.

4. Discussion Items

a. Recap of Compost Event

i. Electronics Recycling at Gurnee Public Works Facility

The group discussed how the Electronics Recycling Event went and the details of the operation. Austin stated that 2 of the 3 electronics recycling bins were filled up.

b. Upcoming Recycling Events

i. Paper Shredding – Karen stated that she was going to inquire as if BCU would be interested in having a paper shredding/recycling event at Village Hall.

ii. Stryfoam Recycling Event – Shelley stated that there is going to be a Styrofoam recycling event on Saturday, October 7th from 9:00am to 12:00pm

c. Plastic Bags Education

Karen stated that Austin reached out to all big box stores to confirm that the bags are being recycled before publishing the green gurnee guide.

Rebecca shared a study about how different cities ban or charge a fee for plastic bag use in Illinois. Austin stated that he would circulate the study with the group and we could discuss what the committee would like to do with it at the next meeting.

Karen brought up that the Mayor would the committee to present at a Village Board meeting and the group came to a consensus to present on September 11th at 7pm.

d. Outreach Programs

Karen stated that she has been trying to get the Mother earth group at the high school involved in Village sustainability efforts.

Karen stated that the Village does have a neighborhood cleanup program and she stated that the committee should focus on the communications surrounding it. Meg suggested that the committee could coordinate an Earth day program and put out some communication out around that time.

Austin stated that the next meeting is scheduled for September 5th.

Rebecca stated that she will be looking into the SWALCO plastics program for the next meeting.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned around 4:26pm.

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.

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