

**Village of Gurnee
Environmental Sustainability Committee
Minutes**

DATE: September 5, 2023
TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers 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 3:29 p.m.
- b) Roll Call: Karen Thorstenson, Rebecca Adler, Dan Helgren, Morgan Culver, and Brian Penticoff
- c) Other Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator
- d) Public in Attendance: None

2. Approval of July 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Karen made a motion to approve the minutes, Brian Penticoff second it. The minutes were approved and entered into the record.

3. Discussion Items

a. Upcoming Recycling Events

- i. Austin explained that the Baxter Credit Union (BCU) Paper Shredding wanted to host a Shred and Recycling Event on Saturday, September 30, 11:00am to 2:00pm. It originally conflicted with the parade, but it was rescheduled.
- ii. Austin stated that we have the Stryfoam Recycling Event scheduled for Saturday, October 7th from 9:00am to 12:00pm
- iii. Austin stated that Waste Management provides dumpsters for the Pumpkin Composting Event that takes places every year and he scheduled it for Saturday, November 4 from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

Rebecca asked what the duties are for the events and Austin explained that the duties consist of keeping the line moving, passing out the recycling guides and just take in the recyclable materials.

4. Village Board Presentation – September 11th Board Presentation, 7:00pm

Austin explained that the purpose of this presentation is to inform the public and the board on the progress of the ESC and Village sustainability. He stated that every year the ESC presents in the Fall to the board.

Karen explained that we wanted to keep it simple and she reviewed the agenda of the presentation and stated that she will provide a history of the committee, the survey, the Green Gurnee Awards and then will go into the programs, progress and policies.

She started with the background history and stated that the committee began in November 2020 with the committees' goal to guide green initiatives.

She reviewed the community survey results and stated that the top categories were industrial emissions, air quality, drinking water and water quality in general. She provided some context to the group regarding Eto and she read the latest update. Austin stated that

an individual came to an ESC meeting last year and presented on how he was trying to obtain an expensive testing instrument. Karen then talked about the Green Business Awards and how Fastlane Lubemasters was recognized for their reuse of burning oil and how Gurnee Mills qualified for their water treatment and installation of charging stations. Austin stated that if members go to businesses in town and see that they are doing in anything very sustainable to encourage them to apply.

Austin provided an update that Shelley will no longer be on the committee after the Styrofoam recycling event.

Karen then went into the progress to date. She talked about the Green Recycling & Safe Disposal Guide that Austin created based upon questions that he has received. She also stated that the group has passed them out at events. Austin stated that since publishing the guide, the sharps container has been relatively full.

Karen mentioned the community recycling events and that the most successful was the mulch delivery.

She stated that the group has outreach discussions with SWALCO and Waste Management that Austin leads and with other local entities such as Warren Township government, Woodland and Warren Township High School.

Karen explained that Greenest Region Compact, (GRC2), is a framework developed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Austin stated that a lot other municipalities reference it as a sustainability plan. It provides a template for municipalities to align their sustainability activities to proven results. For Gurnee, the framework enables us to prioritize activities most impactful to Gurnee & our community, and to consider other activities based on a level of effort and impact. She stated that there are 4 categories that the Village is working on: Municipal Operations, Waste and Recycling, Water and Sustainable communities and then explained the way the Village is meeting those. She talked about the Village's specific actions in those categories such as recycling, the Orion water meters and the Tree City USA awards as well as the recycling programs. She then discussed the future Outreach with WTHS and feeder schools on aligned goals with the ESC and to consider education programs to start at the middle school level.

Karen then went onto the progress slide and talked about the Green Energy Aggregation Program, the SOLSMART Bronze Designation that Village achieved in regards to National Solar Friendliness Designation, the Gurnee Flood Mitigation Efforts and how the buying out homes in the flood plain reduces flood impact. She summarized various Village initiatives.

Karen then mentioned the outreach with feeder schools. Austin stated that we could start with one school. She said that the Village will continue to review information from the IEPA regarding ETO emissions.

Karen stated that on October 30th, Brett Fritzler Utilities Supervisor and Bill Soucie Executive Director CLCJAWA will be at the Village's committee of the whole meeting to discuss the forever chemicals PFA's.

She then explained how the Village is looking at enhancing sustainability communications by more information sharing through SAWLCO and other organizations. She said that for the 2024 calendar, we are looking at a variety of initiatives such as adopt a trail, earth day clean up, and more. Austin stated that the county has an adopt-a-roadway program and the Village has given out trails in the past.

Karen stated if the group thinks of something that she missed to contact her. Rebecca stated that it is a good summary of what is going on and Karen mentioned that we are still trying to do more and referenced the plastic bag ban.

Austin stated that the one thing that makes our town different is that we have a national mall that individuals come from out of state and the amusement park that also uses a lot plastic bags that the Village makes a majority of its revenue from, so it is a little different than just applying a tight case study.

Rebecca asked how are the companies listed in the guide recycling plastic bags? Austin stated that he called the business on the lists and confirmed that they recycle plastic bags. Rebecca mentioned a NextTrek program that recycles the plastic bags.

Karen asked if there is a program that the committee is thinking about and to bring it forward because we are looking for ideas. Austin stated that the committee has historically helped out with a lot of recycling events and not so much policies.

Brian was curious how much mulch was delivered as well as the compost and Austin stated that he would follow-up with those.

Karen stated that the presentation is at 7:00pm on September 11th at the Village Board meeting.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned around 4:29pm.