

**Village of Gurnee
Environmental Sustainability Committee
Minutes**

DATE: July 2, 2024
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 3:32 p.m.
- B. Roll Call: Chair Karen Thorstenson, Meg Beckley, Zoe Zweifelhofer and Brian Penticoff
- C. Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator

2. Approval of the May 7, 2024 and the June 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Brian made motion to approve it and Meg made a motion to second it. The minutes were approved by the group.

3. New Business

No new business.

4. Discussion Items

A Hefty Renew Bag Program

Austin explained the orange bag program, briefly went over the presentation materials, and talked about the benefits of the program.

He said that he's looking into getting some of the orange bags as well as marketing materials from Hefty.

Brian asked if Austin can share the slide deck, and Austin said he would email it to the group.

B. SWALCO Textile YOY Usage Stats and WTHS Textile Bin Status

Austin reviewed the year over year stats for the reuse-a-shoe and clothing and textiles collection program. For the reuse-a-shoe program, the Village collected 480 pounds in 2022 and 694 pounds in 2023.

For the clothing and textile collection program, the Village collected 56,026 pounds in 2022 and 63,021 pounds in 2023. That makes the Village's clothing and textile bin the busiest in the county.

Austin then asked Zoe if she heard anything regarding the clothing and textile recycling bin at the high school. Zoe stated Mr. Boncher is finalizing the paperwork and she said they may want to get another one at the other campus.

C. Community Survey Questions

Austin stated the community survey question that he chose regarding for environmental sustainability is something along the lines of how important is... resource conservation, native plantings, increasing recycling stream, and public awareness of sustainable practices such as composting.

He said that he wanted to focus on things that the Village has control over and Karen agreed and stated that many people would say yes to clean, air, water and recycling, yet that does not leave the Village with much room to go.

D. Gas Powered Leaf Blower Policy Consideration

Karen stated that she directed Austin to look into this topic. She doesn't want to burden businesses or residents in Gurnee with a policy. She stated examples and limitations that could be placed on business and residents, and asked Austin to reach out to SWALCO. Meg stated that the gas blowers are loud and Karen stated that the Village of Gurnee does have a noise ordinance.

Austin said that SWALCO Executive Director Walter Willis stated, "I know this is a growing trend, and I think Highland Park is looking at an ordinance of some sort. You may get push back from the landscaping companies; the battery-powered ones may not work and last as long. Plus I think they are more expensive."

He stated that they did join a grant application that the Metro Mayors are pursuing that would fund a buyback program for all gas powered lawn equipment and provide people a voucher to buy an battery powered mower or blower instead. He said that Gurnee could participate in some buybacks if awarded.

E. Electronics Recycling Event

The group came to consensus on scheduling the electronics recycling event for Friday, September 20th.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm