

**Village of Gurnee  
Environmental Sustainability Committee  
Minutes**

**DATE: September 3, 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, Matt Beckley, Anya Polanski, Dan Helgren and Zoe Zweifelhofer

C. Public in Attendance: Sally Goldstein and Leith Hoffman

D. Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator

The group went around and introduced themselves while stating their interest in environmental sustainability. Karen explained the history, structure of the group and how the committee functions.

**2. Approval of the July 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Meg made a motion to approve it and Anya made a motion to second it. The group approved the minutes.

**3. New Business**

There were no new business items.

**4. Discussion Items**

**A Upcoming Recycling Events and Planning**

- Electronics Recycling, Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
Austin stated that the event is going to be staff by Public Works and the event has been coordinated and he is currently marketing it.

- Pumpkin Composting, Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Austin stated that there is correction on the agenda for the Pumpkin Composting event as the correct day is Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 12pm. He stated it will be at Village Hall and needs volunteers.

Leith Hoffman said that he could arrange for volunteers. Anya stated she could also assist with providing volunteers. Karen explained the need for them and their role in assisting the group.

- Styrofoam Recycling, TBD  
Austin stated that he has been trying to get in contact with Dart and has emailed a higher contact to assist in coordinating the event.

**B LRS Orange Bag**

Austin stated a press release will be issued September 16<sup>th</sup> with the Village of Gurnee's name on it. He also said that the expected go live date is October 1<sup>st</sup> with stores getting their first shipment around that time. Austin explained how the orange

bag program will work and that he will market it once he gets more information from Hefty/SWALCO. The group discussed the benefits of the program and what items can be placed in the orange bag. He stated that he requested as many free bags as the Village can get and is waiting on them as well as the press release with the go live date before he starts marketing it.

### **C. Business Survey Questions**

Austin stated that committee does have one question on the survey regarding environmental sustainability and one proposed question. The question on the survey is, "If the Village offered commercial composting pick up, would your business be interested?" Austin explained that the Village is looking at having a company provide composting to the businesses, but they need an accurate way to gauge interest and this would validate interest if the result came back favorable.

Leith asked if it would cost the businesses money and Austin said yes they would have to pay for it.

The proposed question is "If any, what are your businesses' green or environmental sustainability practices and goals? How can the Village help you achieve them?"

Karen explained that would be a great question and it could help the group nominate a business for the green Gurnee award. Austin asked the group if they have any additional input as it could be included in the survey.

### **D. Lake County CAC Plan**

Austin said that he is part of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County's Citizen Advisory Council and that he is working on a new county plan. Austin stated that the plan governs solid waste and recycling initiatives for the next five years, is adopted by Lake County and SWALCO. He said that he should have more at the next meeting to formally share with the group.

## **5. Reminder LRS Facility Tour: Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm**

Austin reminded the group that those who are attending the LRS recycling tour that it is on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm and it is located at 2300 Carlson Dr. in Northbrook.

He also stated that guests will need to wear closed-toed shoes or boots and long pants.

## **6. Public Comment**

Sally Goldstein asked if residents who do not have LRS could participate in the orange bag program. Austin said no as it is limited LRS customers and those under the Village's contract only. She would have to ask her own waste hauler if they provide any options for that.

Sally asked about Styrofoam and why do companies use it if it is not recyclable or biodegradable.

Dan and Leith explained that it is lightweight, inexpensive and good at protecting during shipping.

Karen discussed the possibility of having a shred event and that the Village could reach out to our contacts if needed.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:28pm.