

**VILLAGE OF GURNEE  
MINUTES  
Environmental Sustainability Committee**

**DATE:** December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020  
**TIME:** 2:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Zoom Call (instructions to join below)

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- i. Jack Linehan called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
- b. Other Officials in Attendance:** Assistant to the Village Administrator Jack Linehan
- c. Roll Call,**
  - i. PRESENT: 4 – Linehan, Hood, Osa, Lazarus**
  - ii. ABSENT: 0 - None**

**2. Public Comment**

- a. None.

**3. New Business**

- a. Appointment of Committee Chair**
  - i. Jack Linehan mentioned himself and Katherine Gehl are ineligible to be chair as staff members. Open to nomination.
  - ii. Tom Hood volunteered to be chair. Rick Osa seconds. Tom Hood calls for a motion to approve.
- b. Roll Call,**
  - i. AYE: 3 - Lazarus, Hood, Osa**
  - ii. NAY: 0**
  - iii. ABSENT: 0**
  - iv. Motion Carried.**

**4. Discussion Item**

- a. Introduction of Committee Members**
  - i. Tom Hood invites members to introduce themselves and share their interests to the environment.

- ii. Shelly Lazarus is a 24 year resident of Gurnee and is an attorney by trade. Retired and working on other projects. Passionate about elderly, environment and animals. Has several ideas for the committee.
- iii. Rick Oso has worked in the environmental field for 40+ years in environmental management. Work for environmental resource company. Has done some sustainability work for municipalities. Carbon. Lived in Gurnee for about 6 months. Kids went to District 56.
- iv. Jack Linehan is Assistant to the Village Administrator and has general interest in environment with different projects.
- v. Katherine worked for Village since August of 2019. Work on communications, handling FOIA requests, and organizing research for various projects that come up.
- vi. Tom is Vice Mayor and running for Mayor in April. Has been an attorney in Gurnee for 30 years and works with son. Interest in environment has sprouted from EtO. Would like to get out in front of things and inform public in a positive way rather than being reactive.

**b. Review of past environmental sustainability initiatives**

- i. 2016-2021 Strategic Plan
  - (i) Jack mentioned Regularly employ green initiatives was a key item for Village Board in strategic plan.
- ii. Village LED Streetlight & ComEd Efficiency Program
  - (i) Jack mentioned there are 1700 village owned street lights in Village, 1400 have been transitioned to LED, this year was supposed to be the last year of transitioning. Held off on transitioning due to COVID as a non-essential expense when cutting capital costs in the times of pandemic. Rest will most likely be transitioned next year. The Village has replaced LED as lights burn out rather than taking functioning lights and replacing them.
  - (ii) Village does not pay electric, is given through the ComEd agreement. Working to transition to LED lighting in Village facilities.
- iii. Blue Ribbon Commission Recommendations
  - (i) Jack mentioned walkability was big issue in strategic plan and that residents chose that as a top priority. Mentioned village was built as a suburban committee with sidewalks not a priority. Washington street trail will be connected at Hunt Club. Says; however, that pedestrian improvements are extremely expensive and limited by funding.
- iv. Electric Aggregation Using Renewable Energy
  - (i) Jack mentioned Gurnee goes out to bid for electronic consumption and picks the lowest bidder. ComEd was lowest when the program began. MC squared was a third party bidder that came in with a lower bid and Village went into the program in 2018. 100% of Village's energy is renewable. CO2 reduction was equivalent to 76 million pounds of coal burned. This program is recognized by EPA and Gurnee is one of the top 100 recognized as a green power community.
- v. Switching to eco-friendly salts

- (i) Village moved over to eco-friendly salts, using less salt, and using pre-treatments which has contributed to less pollution to our rivers.
- vi. Rick Osa asked about Villages vehicle fleet. Jack says there is a wide range of vehicle fleet but none are electric. Rick Osa says there could be opportunities there.
- vii. Asked if the Village handles the potable water supply. Jack said the Village purchases water for CCLJAWA. Rick Osa mentioned with other work how he was amazed by how much water pumping consumed energy. Saved 2% with conversions to more efficient practices.
- viii. Rick Osa asks if the Village has backup generators. Jack says most facilities have backup generators and that 911 is going to have a double generator and goes back to Rick's other point that there are no hybrid or electric vehicles in the fleet.
- ix. Rick Osa asks if there is anywhere to plug in electric vehicles and Jack mentioned there are no public electric vehicle charging stations.

c. Committee Goal-setting initiative

- i. Tom Hood asks Shelly to talk about some of the things she is interested in.
- ii. Shelly is interested in the committee because she wrote a letter about Styrofoam recycling and that waste management doesn't take it at the curb. The closest place to recycle is in Hiland Park. Went to Hiland Park to recycle styrofoam from a new tv and thought there should be a closer place to recycle. Brought it to the attention of the Mayor, Lake County Board, and Trustee Hoods and heard from Tom Hood. Would like to see a facility in the northern part of Lake County to collect Styrofoam, mentions a relationship could be built between the Village and the company Dart. Shelly worked with Park District to get recyclable containers in park, but wants education to the public of what is recyclable.
- iii. Tom Hood agrees that coming up with information about recycling is important. Can do that with Jack to share to the residents. FAQ's need to be out through all of Village's communication channels.
- iv. Shelly mentions a big issue that some things you think are good to recycle are not. Tom Hood says this should be a goal for the committee.
- v. Rick Osa says if there is a Gurnee Days in 2021, a booth about this topic could be organized by Shelly.
- vi. Rick Osa wants to look at things holistically, but sustainability is a win, win, win situation. Says companies are very motivated to locate in green communities. Rick Osa was not aware of green power aggregation but was very happy with it. Attractive to residents and commercial property owners. Says there are opportunities with vehicle fleet. Opportunity to write a grant proposal for a charging station. Katherine says she could work on that. Material sent to committee members before meeting about other Lake County communities show that those communities may be ahead of Gurnee. An initial village carbon footprint study should be done in partnership with high school – hits a number of buttons.

- vii. Tom Hood likes the carbon footprint project partnership and mentioned that it doesn't need to be the Village doing all of these things alone.
- viii. Tom Hood thinks each member should sit down and send an email about ideas they have for the committee with specific details. Emails can be reviewed and 1 or 2 of the presented ideas can be chosen to work on. Says the committee is an advising board but can make recommendations and work with Jack to promote.
- ix. Jack mentions that recycling is a big consumer issue and that waste management has had to change their model due to contamination issues. Says there's a huge opportunity for communication with residents. Says the private sector has stepped up to provide locations for recycling. For example, pharmacies. Says that a carbon footprint analysis is a really good idea to work with the Warren Mother Earth Environmental Clubs (MECS). Says the Village is happy to work with the committee following any recommendations they make.
- x. Rick Osa asks about the relationship between SWALCO and village.
- xi. Jack says the Village has voting members on the SWALCO board. Village pays \$30,000 to be on the board and get compensated with resources. They are the Village's main resource when it comes to environmental questions from residents.
- xii. Rick Osa asks about traffic in Village. Says congestion is a big problem, civil engineers can work to reduce congestion and the main things that lead to this. Asks who has the power of the roads in Gurnee.
- xiii. Jack says village does maintain most residential roadways. Largest roads are Almond and Dada. A lot of traffic control is through Lake County and that they monitor traffic patterns and that our engineers can make recommendations.
- xiv. Rick Osa asks if there are major improvements can the village have input.
- xv. Jack says it's semi limited, it depends on the road.
- xvi. Tom Hood asks members to share emails over the next coming weeks to share ideas. Will take a look at these and pick out one or two ideas to look at in a more thoughtful way. Asks if anyone has anything else they would like to talk about.

**d. Next Meeting Date / 2021 Meeting Schedule**

- i. Tom Hood asks Jack about suggestions for meeting dates. Jack asks if monthly is good with everyone. Tom Hood says workload should be considered later on, but thinks monthly is a good place to start. Rick Osa says the first Wednesday of every month works for him. Shelly agrees that first Wednesday at 2 p.m of every month works. Jack asks if second Wednesday works, says COVID call

with Lake County happens the first Wednesday and second Wednesday would work better. Group agrees that second Wednesday at 2 p.m. works and that the group should exchange emails in the meantime to share ideas.

**5. Public Comment**

- a. None.

**6. Adjournment**

- i. It was moved by Shelly Lazarus, seconded by Rick Osa to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Voice Vote: ALL AYE.**
- c. Motion Carried.**
- d. Jack will send out calendar invites for 6 months at a time and also the meeting link and village's website page link for the committee.