

**VILLAGE OF GURNEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Environmental Sustainability Committee**

**DATE:** September 6, 2022 (Tuesday)  
**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Zoom Call

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

- a. Chairman Rick Osa called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- b. Roll Call: Lucie Bedner, Shelley Lazarus
- c. Other Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator
- d. Public in Attendance: Maxine Elloian

**2. Approval of August 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

- a. Shelley made a motion to accept the meeting minutes and Lucie second.

**3. Public Comment**

- a. Maxine, asked where does the public go to recycle plastic bags? She mentioned that her club would like to collect plastic bags at a local fest.

In response, Austin mentioned where the plastic bags are recycled.

Shelley stated that she would like to know where they go after they are recycled and she is going to look into it by contacting the manager of a facility. Shelley mentioned that Austin found out that you cannot ball them up and put them in a recycling can.

**4. New Business**

- a. Rick stated that he found a video of a recycling facility in operation, but could not share it due to being off line.

**5. Discussion Items**

- a. Applicability of Open Meeting Law, requirements (Austin)

Austin stated the Open Meetings Act is law that governs local government in Illinois and provides that government business is conducted in the public spotlight. He gave some examples of things the committee does such as posting the meetings, providing access to those who want to attend, and posting the minutes. He stated that the meeting must published online. Summarized that in short, it is meant to show that official government activities is conducted in the public spotlight. Rick mentioned that part of that is to have the agenda published ahead of time.

- b. Recap of Committee Progress Report to Board Presentation

- i. Press interest; potential value in publicizing

Austin mentioned that the presentation was well received by the board, no major concerns, and it was about the right detail and length.

Shelley stated that a reporter contacted her about the Green Business Award and provided her with information from the website. Austin said that before she left, he provided the reporter with his card and she never reached out to him. Rick stated that if we ever want to reach out to the local papers that we should have her on our contact list.

**c. Green Business Award Program**

i. Status

Rick asked where the location of the business award is. Austin mentioned that it was moved and depending on where you start you could get it to it within one or two clicks.

ii. Publicity

Austin stated that there is another business award program, so he staggered it so that it won't be on social media until next week.

iii. Gurnee Business Partners Letter?

iv. Recognition, awards

Rick stated that the recognition is pretty cheap, but the award may be costly. Shelley indicated that she found a price and company and mentioned her thoughts about the cling design. Austin stated that he will look into the cost, contact the company, and design the cling.

v. Schedule

**d. Styrofoam Recycling Event**

i. September 17 planning (publicity)

Shelley stated that she will send Dart an email to confirm the dates and requested volunteers from the committee. Austin stated that the room is available and ready to go and the publicity has been posted on social media and the website.

**e. Greenest Region Compact – status**

i. Electrification of municipal vehicle fleet

Rick highlighted the Inflation Reduction Act from the articles as well as the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants. Rick asked if the Village pays federal taxes. Austin stated that he believes they do, but does not know to what extent. Rick mentioned that there are funds out there for municipalities to use and that the Village may want to look into that

ii. Greenhouse gas reporting of village service providers

Austin tried sharing Rick's recycling video link, but it would not play the audio. So Austin dropped the video link [The Big Sort: An Insider's Tour of a Recycling Plant - YouTube](#) in the chat.

**6. Adjournment**