

**Village of Gurnee
Environmental Sustainability Committee
Minutes**

DATE: May 7, 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, Dan Helgren, Meg Beckley, Zoe Zweifelhofer, Anya Polanski and Brian Penticoff
- C. Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator
- D. Public in Attendance: Sally Goldstein and John Lenander

2. Approval of the April 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Meg made motion to approve it, Brian made a motion to second it. The minutes were approved.

3. New Business

No new business.

4. Discussion Items

A. Free Landscape Waste Collection Weeks Timing

Austin stated that a resident brought up moving the landscape waste collection weeks to the middle of April due to pollinator plants. He stated that the contract just signed emphasized the beginning of April, however he could ask to move it based on the groups thoughts and recommendations.

Meg said she would be in favor of moving it up two weeks and adding another week.

Karen said that the Village couldn't add another week, but she would also be open to moving it up.

Austin said that he could research it more and talk to LRS about possibly making the change.

B. How to treat Dandelions without Harsh Chemicals

Austin stated that Karen brought up to him the issue of treating dandelions with harsh chemicals. He said he researched alternative and natural ways of treating dandelions and he posted in the weekly announcements that hand pulling, treating with a vinegar solution and little grass grow longer.

C. LRS Update and Timeline

Austin provided an update on the LRS transition. He said that LRS sent out misprinted brochures and they said they were sending out a letter to correct the

issue. He said that he would also put the information out on social media, on the website and in a robocall/email blast which will go to residents at later date. Austin stated that some HOAs have separate waste hauling contracts and are not part of the Village's contract.

He stated important information for residents to know regarding the transition as well the timeline and action steps at each point in the process. Karen asked about the orange bag program and when is the anticipated launch date. Austin reviewed parameters of the orange bag program and said it will launch in the fall.

Brian asked if the orange bag program would be just for those who are serviced by LRS. Austin replied yes that the program would be for any municipalities in the region that are served by LRS.

D. Sustainability Events Recap:

Styrofoam Recycling Event and WTHS/BCU Paper Shred Event

The group discussed the shred event and Anya stated that people mentioned that they would want the event more often.

Karen stated that BCU would like to try to have the next shred event at their new location. Austin mentioned that details would need to be figured out well in advance.

E. Upcoming Composting Event Signup

Austin stated that the compost event is this weekend and everyone is welcome to volunteer. Anya said that some high school students will be present at the event to help. Karen stated that the event is 10am to 3pm this weekend.

Zoe stated that the school administration approved the textile bin at the O'Plaine High School campus. Austin stated that he would email SWALCO and Mr. Boncher.

5. Public Comment

Sally inquired why the Village allows burning. Austin and Karen stated that the Village does not. It was mentioned that the burning may be part of campfires or from unincorporated Lake County and she should report it if she thinks it is illegal burning.

Sally asked if the Village could encourage retailers not to use plastics bags. Karen stated that it was brought up the Mayor and the committee reviewed the topic. It was mentioned that Gurnee being a regional destination for shopping would make it a difficult process for retailers.

John stated that he came to observe and see what Gurnee is doing in regards to environmental sustainability. He is interested in efforts to reduce plastics from the environment.

Karen and Austin stated that there is a lot that the Village is doing in regards to the Greenest Region Compact and could share the Village's presentation if he would like to provide his email.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42pm