



Agenda
Village of Arlington Heights
Environmental Commission
Buechner Room-33 S. Arlington Heights Rd., AH 60005

December 5, 2023
7:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. September 12, 2023 Minutes

IV. REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Climate Plan & Benchmarks
- B. Single Use Plastics
- C. Promotion of Composting Options

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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Environmental Commission
12/5/2023

Item: Minutes

Department: HHS

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
September 12th, 2023 Minutes	Agreement

**Village of Arlington Heights
Environmental Commission
Minutes from September 12, 2023**

I. Call to Order

Chair O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present

Chair O'Brien
Commissioner Jaeschke
Commissioner Skrudland
Commissioner Flores
Commissioner Eisenhardt
Commissioner Sawyer
Commissioner Jordan

Not Present

Youth Commissioner Gil-Lara

Also Present

Jeff Bohner, Staff Liaison
Jenna Andresen, Indigo Ecological Design
Stacey Libra, Indigo Ecological Design
Brad Andresen, Village of Algonquin

III. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Jordan moved to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023, Environmental Commission meeting. Commissioner Skrudland seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports

V. Old Business

A. Climate Plan and Benchmarks

Commissioner Jordan noted that Mt. Prospect and Elk Grove had published sustainability plans or reports since the Commission last checked this spring. Both municipalities have reports on their website showing how exiting programs align with the Greenest Region Compact goals.

She had written a list of 5 specific recommendations to the Village Board or staff. There was a discussion on how to proceed with the list. It was decided that the Commission should review the recommendations and make any needed changes before voting to approve the list at a future meeting. After this, the approved list could be submitted to the Village Board for consideration as part of their sustainability discussions.

Commissioner Jaeschke discussed the position papers he had written on a variety of environmental topics and asked the group to review the opinions he had written. The

Commission agreed and thanked him for his work. The group debated on how to incorporate the position papers into the recommendations discussed earlier.

B. Single Use Plastics

Commissioner Jordan told the Commission that their research had revealed only 2 local communities that had bans or taxes on plastic bags- Evanston and Oak Park. She said she would forward the Oak Park ordinance to the other Commissioners for their review.

C. Promotion of Composting Options

There was no further discussion of this topic.

VI. New Business

VII. Other Business

Commissioner Skrudland introduced the guest from Indigo Ecological Design and said she had invited them to speak about the benefits of native landscaping and green infrastructure.

Jenna Andresen began by speaking about the Company and its purpose as well as her family's roots in Arlington Heights. Their company specializes in using native landscaping, including in green infrastructure. The plantings help reduce temperature on buildings and in urban areas, slow and reduce stormwater runoff, cool and cleanse stormwater, increase groundwater recharge, provide habitat for animals, and recreational areas for people.

Stacey Libra showed some photos of areas their firm had restored. She stressed the importance of open communication and signage for projects so residents understand what is happening and why. She also said that in their experience, it took 2-3 years for new plantings to fill in.

Brad Andresen stated that native plantings do require maintenance, it involves more than just letting existing plants grow. There are higher up-front costs, for seeds and plants and weeding. After the first year, however, there are cost savings of 30-50% over traditional grass plantings. A typical return on investment compared to a traditional landscaped area is around 10 years.

Ms. Andresen informed the Commission that there is an inventory of stormwater basins and wetlands in a watershed plan for the Des Plaines river that is available to the public that could be used for potential native plantings. The Village also has a stormwater management plan that explores green infrastructure in newer facilities. She suggested the Commission find a specific site to champion as a way of introducing the concept in the Village.

Commissioner Skrudland thanked the guests for their time and noted the Park District could also benefit from their knowledge.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Commissioner Flores to adjourn. Commissioner Skrudland seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.