



Agenda
Village of Arlington Heights
Environmental Commission
Commissions Room, Village Hall
33 S. Arlington Heights Road
July 14, 2016
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes from 6/7/16
- B. Minutes from 2/9/16

IV. REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Water Conservation/Rain Barrels
- B. Business/Institution Recycling
- C. Spring Sweep

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recent Meetings/Conferences

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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Item: Minutes from 6/7/16

Department: hs

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

June EC minutes

Type

Minutes

**Village of Arlington Heights
Environmental Commission
Minutes from June 7, 2016**

I. Call to Order

The Commission agreed to appoint Commissioner McVay as Acting Chair for the meeting. Acting Chair McVay called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present

Acting Chair McVay
Commissioner Medhat
Commissioner O'Brien
Commissioner Jordan

Absent

Commissioner Sawyer
Chair Barry

Also Present

Jeff Bohner, Staff Liaison

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 9, 2016, meeting could not be approved as a quorum of attending members was not present.

IV. Reports

V. Old Business

A. Commission Projects/Assignments

1. Water Conservation

The Commission was pleased to learn the Village had signed an agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for distribution of free rain barrels for residents. Commissioner O'Brien suggested a marketing campaign to inform residents of the program, possibly with displays at sites in the Village and booths at events such as the Mane Event and Festival.

2. Public Outreach/ Business Recycling

Commissioner Medhat told the group about the environmentally friendly business presentation by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) at the library in April. It had been poorly attended, despite being promoted by the Chamber of Commerce. He stated he thought the Commission should focus on other areas since the Business Community didn't seem interested in recycling.

3. Plastic Shopping Bag Ban/Recycling

Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of single-use bag bans versus fees. Acting Chair McVay stated the ban/fee should cover plastic bags only. Commissioner Jordan agreed because paper bags were recyclable at the curbside

and were biodegradable so were not as big a litter issue. Commissioner Medhat said any action should start with an educational campaign regarding reducing plastic bag use, re-usable shopping bags were discussed.

The Acting Chair said information should be placed in the newsletters from the Townships, Library, and Park District. Members agreed to contact these agencies. She also asked Commissioners to get copies of existing ban/fee ordinances from other towns as examples for a possible Arlington Heights' ordinance.

VI. New Business

The Commissioners discussed the Spring Sweep recycling event held by the Special Events Commission and if the Environmental Commission wanted to run the event next year. The Acting Chair suggested contacting Groot to run the shredding portion of the event. Commissioner Jordan suggested having a Special Events Commissioner speak at the next Commission meeting about the logistics of the event.

Commissioner O'Brien suggested having annual educational pieces on display and on the web site.

VII. Other Business

After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that July 14th would be acceptable for the next meeting.

The Liaison informed the Commission that the Chair was resigning his position. Acting Chair McVay asked the members to consider becoming the next Chair and recruiting colleagues for the Commission vacancy.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner O'Brien to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, and approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.



Item: Minutes from 2/9/16

Department: hs

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
February EC Minutes	Minutes

**Village of Arlington Heights
Environmental Commission
Minutes from February 9, 2016**

I. Call to Order

Chair Barry called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present

Chair Barry
Commissioner Sawyer
Commissioner O'Brien
Commissioner Jordan
Youth Commissioner Glasgow

Absent

Commissioner Medhat
Commissioner McVay

Also Present

Jeff Bohner, Staff Liaison

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Sawyer to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2016, meeting, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien and approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Reports

V. Old Business

A. Commission Projects/Assignments

1. Water Conservation

Commissioner O'Brien said he could get samples of the rain barrels for display. Commissioner Jordan offered to ask local Boy Scouts if they could construct barrels from kits for residents. Then orders could be taken for the barrels. Commissioner Sawyer suggested the Scouts also sell the barrels, to avoid sales tax issues that had been brought up by the Village Finance Department.

2. Public Outreach

The Chair asked if the Commission had interest in making recycling instruction magnets for public distribution. He and Commissioner Sawyer agreed to investigate pricing for magnets, to possibly hand out at the Spring Sweep recycling event.

Commissioner Jordan stated she was working on changes to the plastic film recycling flyer she had distributed, and would bring it to the Commission for approval at the next meeting.

3. Business/Institution Recycling

No report.

4. Plastic Shopping Bag Ban/Recycling

Chair Barry said he had filed a Freedom of Information request with the Village to find out the location of all retail stores over 10,000 square feet. He had spoken to the managers of the Vail Street Jewel and Mariano's. While the Jewel manager did not think a plastic bag ban would affect their operations, the manager at Mariano's stated she didn't want a bag ban. Reusable and paper bags did not fit their check-out areas well and added time to the bagging process.

Commissioner Sawyer interviewed a former Environmental Commission member from Evanston about their bag ban. She informed him that their ban had less resistance than was initially anticipated. Only 11 stores are affected by the ban in Evanston, and all have adapted after some initial concern. However, she did not think there had been much reduction in use of plastic in the town. Since the ban did not cover thicker plastic bags (to allow shoppers to employ re-usable bags), many stores were handing out thicker plastic bags for free. She categorized the effort as a "feel good move", but with un-satisfying results. Youth Commissioner Glasgow and Commissioner Sawyer both thought a fee for plastic shopping bags would be more effective, and the fee monies could be used for environmental projects. Commissioner Jordan shared an article from the Chicago Tribune that explained that a bag fee of 10¢ wasn't enough to stop patrons from using bags. It suggested a minimum thickness of 4 mm or mandating use of compostable plastic.

The Chair reminded the group that another issue would be enforcement of the ban. In Evanston, the Health Department and Community Development Department are responsible for enforcement.

VI. New Business

The Commissioners discussed the Spring Sweep recycling event held by the Special Events Commission. The Chair of the Special Events Commission had contacted the Environmental Commission about helping at this year's event, and possibly taking over running of future events. It was agreed that the Commission members could help this year, and get an understanding of the size and scope of the event. Chair Barry said he would attend the next Special Events Commission meeting.

VII. Other Business

After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that a Tuesday in April would be convenient for a tour of the Groot material recovery facility.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Sawyer to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien, and approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.