

**Village of Arlington Heights
Environmental Commission
Minutes from January 21, 2025**

I. Call to Order

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present

Chair Jordan
Commissioner Eisenhardt
Youth Commissioner Gil-Lara
Commissioner Flores
Commissioner Jaeschke
Commissioner Porwit

Not Present

Commissioner Sawyer
Commissioner Skrudland

Also Present

Jeff Bohner, Staff Liaison

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Flores moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024, Environmental Commission meeting. Commissioner Porwit seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

III. Reports

Old Business

A. Commission Goals

Chair Jordan began telling the Commission that she had asked the Village Manager to ask the Village Board if publishing sustainability metrics and benchmarking single-use plastic regulations were topics the Commission could pursue. She then asked individual members what topics they would like to investigate in 2025.

Commissioner Porwit started with the goal of tracking Village sustainability metrics. He listed examples of air quality indexes, temperature and weather statistics, energy consumption, amount of renewable energy, waste generation and diversion, single use plastic consumption per household and policies or bans on those plastics.

Commissioner Jaeschke stated he wanted to reduce landfill waste generation through programs to provide single-stream recycling for certain items. He said that by having dedicated paper recycling options, contamination would be reduced and smaller, and scrap paper that was currently being treated as trash could be recycled. He provided a paper containing his ideas for the Commission.

Commissioner Eisenhardt followed. She proposed educating the public on proper recycling to reduce waste and gave examples of a QR code for container and bins and a scanning system called Oscar she had recently seen.

Youth Commissioner Gil-Lara wanted to work on educating residents on proper recycling, with an emphasis on outreach to schools.

Commissioner Flores wanted to pursue waste reduction with themed categories such as plastic, recycling and composting. He wants to use social medial live streaming to educate the public, with interviews with experts in those fields. He also stated the Commission could encourage science classes to discuss composting and recycling and education provided at special events to reduce waste there as well. These steps could be followed up with posts showing if there was a reduction in solid waste at these events.

Chair Jordan then asked the other Commissioners to volunteer and write a small summary of actions possible for each of these goals. Commissioners offered to work on the goals as follows:

- Commissioner Porwit offered to work on reducing trash at special events and recycling education
- Commissioner Flores said livestreaming educational events with interviews to education about recycling and waste reduction
- Youth Commissioner Gil-Lara offered to help Commissioner Flores
- Chair Jordan selected increasing home composting and a QR code for recycling education
- Commissioner Jaeschke agreed to research creating special single streams for recycling specific items
- Commissioner Eisenhardt said she would investigate recycling education for residents on what is recyclable.

The Chair thanked the Commissioners for working on these items and asked for small summaries to be ready for the next meeting. She also agreed to send the lists to Commissioners Sawyer and Skrudland.

VI. New Business

VII. Other Business

Commissioners discussed contacting Frontier Days Festival and the Farmers Market about reducing trash.

VIII. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.