

**Village of Arlington Heights
Environmental Commission
Minutes from June 17, 2025**

I. Call to Order

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present

Chair Jordan
Commissioner Porwit
Commissioner Jaeschke
Commissioner Eisenhardt
Commissioner Skrudland

Not Present

Commissioner Sawyer
Commissioner Flores
Youth Commissioner Gil-Lara

Also Present

Jeff Bohner, Staff Liaison

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Skrudland moved to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2025, Environmental Commission meeting. Commissioner Eisenhardt seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

III. Reports

IV. Old Business

A. Commission Goals

Chair Jordan asked for updates on the Commission projects previously discussed.

A. Education on how to recycle-

Commissioner Eisenhardt said she a Village church was interested in having a had recycling drop-off system (RESIN) on their property and she was putting the two parties in touch. She was also interested in having local re-use and recycle organizations at local events, like having tables at the livestream, for items like toys, paint, batteries and hazardous wastes to educate residents on how to properly discard or recycle these items.

Chair Jordan responded that the farmers market would be a good place for a re-use organization to market their services. There was a discussion of which items could be swapped which included school supplies, shoes, sports equipment and books.

B. Tracking metrics to be published on VAH website-

Commissioner Porwit reported was in the process of determining which metrics to post on the Village website. The Village currently has data for 9 of the metrics. He will then meet with the web page designer to find a graphic.

- C. Benchmark Single-Use plastics-
Commissioner Porwit had spoken with representatives of the 3 local communities with single-use plastic reduction programs. Evanston has a bag ban in stores over a certain square footage, and reported positive feedback but didn't have data to show that plastic use had decreased. Northbrook had a 10 cent per bag tax on plastic and paper shopping bags they credit with reducing single-use bag use by 12 percent. Mt. Prospect had begun a voluntary plastic reduction campaign for restaurant take-out meals in March. The city had 189 restaurants participating, but didn't have any data to show the program was successful at this point.

There was a bill proposed in the State senate (SB 1872) which would ban single-use plastic bags throughout Illinois. Commissioner Porwit agreed to keep the Commission updated on any progress.

- D. Livestream event
Commissioner Flores wasn't able to attend the meeting, but had told the Chair that the event was going to have to be postponed because the room at the library was under renovation until November. Commissioner Flores was looking at other possible locations.
- E. Public Event Education-
Commissioner Porwit reminded the Commissioners were scheduled to work as greeters at the farmers market on September 6th on August 23rd. Commissioner Jaeschke agreed to assist on August 23rd.
- F. Reduce Paper to Landfill-
Commissioner Jaeschke said recycling instruction on the Village web site were not clear. He proposed drop off locations for paper as well as items such as batteries and single-use plastics, but such a project would take support from the Village Board.
- G. Increase participation in Curbside Composting-
Commissioner Skrudland and Chair Jordan were going working the kids table at the farmers market on July 12 and to educate on composting programs. They were going to have food scrap carts and finished compost along with examples of food scraps.
- H. Inviting New Trustees to Future Meeting
The Chair said new Village Trustees should be invited to a future meeting. The Commissioners agreed to invite the Board to a July 15 meeting. Commissioner Skrudland said a special agenda should be made for that night. Chair Jordan agreed, saying a recap of the Commission's goals and projects would be beneficial. Commissioner Porwit said the Trustees should be asked if they have any projects they wanted the Commission to investigate.

V. New Business

Chair Jordan noted that Mayor Tinaglia had discussed electronic vehicle fires in underground parking garages at a recent meeting and asked if that was a topic the Commission should research. Commissioner Eisenhardt reminded the group that research needed to be approved first. The Chair agreed to ask the Village Manager if the Commission should research the topic.

VII. Other Business

The Commissioners agreed to meet again on July 15.

VIII. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.