

**Village of Arlington Heights
Environmental Commission
Minutes from August 12, 2025**

I. Call to Order

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present

Chair Jordan
Commissioner Porwit
Commissioner Jaeschke
Commissioner Flores
Commissioner Skrudland

Not Present

Commissioner Sawyer
Commissioner Eisenhardt

Also Present

Jeff Bohner, Staff Liaison

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Skrudland moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2025, Environmental Commission meeting. Commissioner Porwit seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

III. Reports

IV. Old Business

Chair Jordan asked for updates on these Commission projects.

- A. Education on how to recycle-
There was no update.
- B. Tracking metrics to be published on VAH website-
Commissioner Porwit reported that he had a proposed metrics page developed and would be forwarding it to the liaison to test on the Village website.
- C. Benchmark Single-Use plastics-
Chair Jordan shared a draft report on the topic. It began with why reducing single-use plastics was important and the lack of current recycling infrastructure. A discussion of federal and state reduction programs was next, followed by local community efforts. This section included Park Ridge, whose board had asked staff to write language for a single-use bag ban just this month. The Chair asked the Commissioners for opinions on what the recommendations at the end of the report should be.

Commissioner Skrudland asked if any recommendations from the Commission should be for all single-use plastics, including things like plastic utensils, or just plastic bags? Commissioner Porwit responded that his research indicated that utensils comprised only ten percent of single-use plastic streams, so just targeting bags would be adequate. Both Commissioners agreed that there needs to be good baseline numbers of bags used and/recycled before any fees or bans so the impact could be measured.

Commissioner Porwit said the recommendation should be for a single-use plastic bag ban, since it would be more effective than a fee. Commissioner Flores said a fee would still allow customers to have a choice, but still reduce bag use. Commissioner Jaeschke and Chair Jordand said a ban would be better, .

Chair Jordan asked the Commissioners to read the draft she had sent them and make any changes or recommendations to send back to her.

D. Livestream event

Commissioner Flores reported that the library had said no space would be available until 2026 and the event must be held jointly with the library.

E. Public Event Education-

Commissioner Porwit reminded the Commissioners that were scheduled to work as greeters at the farmers market on September 6th on August 23rd.

F. Increase participation in Curbside Composting-

The program will be promoted at the farmers market as mentioned previously.

G. Re-use Event-

The Chair asked Commissioners to think of larger spaces where such an event could be held.

V. New Business

VII. Other Business

The Commissioners agreed to meet again on September 16.

Commissioner Skrudland mentioned the Village Board had recently discussed topics of discussion for the upcoming year, one of which was electric vehicle charging in multi-family buildings. The Commission was listed as a possible source of research.

VIII. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.