Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024
Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street

MINUTES:

I. Call to Order.

a. Dan Goitein called to order the regular Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting of the Barrington Board of Trustees at 6:03 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at Barrington Village Hall. Mike Casper informed members that the meeting is recorded only for minute purposes.

II. Roll Call.

a. Upon being called, the following answers were given: Committee Members Chairperson Dan Goitein, Jim McGrath, and Jennifer Lucas. Members not present: Vice Chairperson Renee Blue, Chris Ordway, Kimberly Saunders, and Matt Hokanson.

III. Public Comment.

a. None.

IV. Approval of Minutes.

a. Minutes of August 14, 2024, were distributed for review.

b. **Motion:** Dan Goitein duly made a motion, and Jennifer Lucas seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee's August 14, 2024, meeting. A voice vote was then called, and the minutes were approved.

V. 2024-2025 Holiday Lights Recycling Program.

a. Start November 25, 2024, End March 31, 2025
b. Nothing but Holiday Lights are allowed to be placed in the containers.
c. Elgin Recycling asked us to do the following for promotional purposes.
d. In all Holiday Lights Recycling Program advertisements, please include our name, “Elgin Recycling,” and notify the public you are partnering with us.
e. In all online advertisements, please include our name, “Elgin Recycling,” and a link to our website: www.elginrecycling.com
f. Communicate the program to your residents to increase success.

VI. Park Avenue.

a. Park Avenue design plans are being finalized. Construction is anticipated to commence next year.
b. The area will have bike racks, a bike servicing station, a water bottle filling station, multiple trash receptacles, and separate recycling receptacles. We do not have the exact timing, but we expect construction to begin in 2025.
c. Dan Goitein asked if there would be a plan for reoccurring maintenance once the project is completed. Mike Casper said that he would look into this.
d. Jennifer Lucas mentioned that the Rotary Club may donate bike racks. She could ask if the village would like her to.

VII. Recycle Coach.

a. The Illinois EPA has procured a digital education and communication platform for waste and recycling called Recycle Coach. This powerful tool is now available to all communities across the state. No cost or contract is required, and the state has fully funded this project. In September, a representative from the Village of Barrington Public Works Department attended an Onboarding Recycle Coach Workshop at the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) in Wheeling, IL. The Village of Barrington and SWANCC are working together on this tool, which will be an invaluable resource for our communities and residents. A location on the Village's website and a mobile app will be available to residents. It will be a simple, uniform (and FREE) platform to guide the disposal of common household materials paired with local details of refuse and recycling schedules and rules at their fingertips. We are excited to have this resource available to our residents, and the tool should be available on our website by early 2025!

VIII. Parkway Trees.

a. 67 Parkway trees will be planted this fall. As of now, they have either been planted or are scheduled to be planted.

IX. Parking Lot 18

a. On October 19th, the village started a landscape project with the help of many volunteers on one of the village's parking lots, known as lot 18. Thank you to those of you who volunteered. A total of 570 plants of four different varieties were planted. Russian Sage, Prairie Grass, Hydrangeas, and Hosta's were those varieties. These varieties were chosen because of their hardiness, salt resistance, and require minimal care. The Russian Sage plants are also great pollinators.
b. Jennifer Lucas mentioned that the next time the village is looking for volunteers for this type of event, the EAC will provide tips on where to advertise.

X. Textile Event.

a. This event went well for the first time; 1,200 pounds of soft items and 600 pounds of hard goods were collected on October 19th during the Document Destruction Event.
b. Helping Hands Textile Recycling will collaborate with many different sources to keep these items out of landfills by either donating or selling them or using them to stuff car seats, cooling insulation, etc.

XI. Food Drive.

a. Two wheel barrels of food were collected on October 19th during the Document Destruction Event. They were shared between Barrington Township and Cuba Township food pantries.

XII. Political Sign Recycling.

a. This has been going well. The political signs brought to Public Works have been separated from their metal stakes and stacked in the bins.

XIII. 2025 EAC Meeting Dates.

a. February 12, 2025.
b. May 14, 2025.
c. August 13, 2025.
d. November 12, 2025.

XIV. Other Business.

a. Jim McGrath emailed a few questions for discussion.
    i. First, will Groot be picking up compostables in the yard waste container over the winter? If so, we need to make citizens aware. The last Barrington Newsletter advised yard waste pick would end Dec 13. Mike Casper mentioned that the village has contacted Groot to see if the procedures are the same as last winter. Once that has been verified, the village will pass that information along to the residents.
    ii. Second, recently the Barrington PD held a collection for unused drugs. This keeps drugs from being flushed and contaminating ground water. Jim McGrath thinks the EAC should consider promoting this in partnership with the Barrington PD.
    iii. Lastly, would the EAC be interested in providing a monthly recycle tip to be included in the Barrington Newsletter? Mike Casper said yes, environmental tips would be appreciated. Send those to both Mike at mcasper@barrington-il.gov and Becky at rwyskochil@barrington-il.gov.
b. Jennifer Lucas had a question about the Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Is this for Barrington residents only and do they have to show an ID?
c. Jim McGrath had a question about the Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Will the Barrington Police Department take unused drugs anytime or only during these events?
d. Dan Goitein had a question about the EAC term limits. Mike Casper said that he would look into it.
e. Jennifer Lucas mentioned that Barrington Citizens for Conservation likes to have one of its members on the Barrington EAC.
f. Jim McGrath asked if there was any feedback from the EAC's environmental suggestions for permits. Mike Casper said that all the EAC suggestions were submitted and has not heard any feedback yet.
g. Jim McGrath asked if the EAC members could respond to the EAC@barrington-il.gov email, and all members would get that response. Mike Casper mentioned that the village is changing email software and that group email would need to be created again.

XV. Adjournment.

a. A motion was made by Jennifer Lucas and seconded by Dan Goitein to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:33 p.m. A voice vote was then called, and the meeting was adjourned.

The Environmental Advisory Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM.