



## VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG

### AGENDA

**Environmental Committee**  
**Thursday, October 3, 2024**  
**7:00 PM - Conference Room C**

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. 9-5-24 Minutes

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2025 Environmental Fair – Planning

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **CONTINUING ITEMS**

1. 2024 Septemberfest Booth – Final Report

#### **DEFERRALS**

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **NEXT MEETING**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable Federal and State laws, the meeting will be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Persons requiring auxiliary aids and/or services should contact the Village Manager's Office at 847.923.4705, preferably no later than five days before the meeting.



**9-5-24 Minutes**  
**10/3/2024**  
**Environmental Committee**

Presenter:

Lead Department: Community Development

*Executive Summary:*

*Recommended Action:*

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Type
▣ MINUTES	Exhibit

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Meeting of September 5, 2024

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Donna Panico-Atkins.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Donna Panico-Atkins–Chairperson, Robert Wachsmuth, Ryszard Puskarz, Elizabeth Wimmer, Thomas Radtke and Christine Krause arrived at 7:11 pm.

Member(s) Absent: Donna Johnson and Pratik Patel

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Monica Richart

Others: Trisha Kern – Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 1, 2024**

Mr. Radtke made a motion to approve the minutes with amendment seconded by Ms. Wimmer.

**All Ayes. Three members were absent.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2024 Septemberfest Booth – Event Recap**

The committee stated toward the end of the morning shift the booth started to pick up and a steady stream continued through the middle of the day shift and the early evening shift said it slowed at 5. Mr. Radtke suggested that the seeds that are given away should be able to be planted in the fall. Ms. Wimmer suggested if they use the car counter to get a general idea of how many people approached the booth. Mr. Puskarz stated that when their topic is on recycling, they get more people stopping by and asking questions on where things can be recycled. He stated this time people took the flyers for the rain gardens, but not many questions. Ms. Wimmer and Mr. Wachsmuth stated there were questions about rain barrels. Mr. Puskarz questioned if he could get seed packets for 10 cents each if he could buy them for giving out. Ms. Richart stated yes, she would check the budget and let him know how much they had. Ms. Wimmer stated they could put stickers on the seed packets from the Environmental Committee. Mr. Radtke suggested a QR code with the recycling event dates. Ms. Krause asked if they could have a banner to hang from the booth so it could draw more attention to the booth.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. 2024 Environmental Fair – Final Report**

The document has been completed and there was nothing new added from the previous meeting. Mr. Radtke questioned if the committee has ever done the fair on Earth Day. Chairperson Panico-Atkins stated the recycling event in the spring has always coincided with Earth Day. Ms. Wimmer stated World Environment Day is in early June. Mr. Radtke stated it may be easier for people to remember when the Environmental Fair is if we do it the same time each year.

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Chairperson Panico-Atkins and Mr. Alavandi questioned when we would hear from the library to see if their theme would coincide with the committee's again to decide if they would be partnering up with them again. Chairperson Panico-Atkins questioned if partnering with the Trickster Gallery was an option. Mr. Wachsmuth questioned what the big environmental topic was right now. Mr. Puskarz stated he has heard using native plants in landscaping. Ms. Wimmer stated she believes composting is one and she also stated that certain times of years you can add fruit and vegetables scraps to the yard waste. Chairperson Panico-Atkins stated they could have a worm garden. Mr. Radtke and Ms. Krause agreed kids would love that.

Chairperson Panico-Atkins requested that at the next meeting they review the survey results from the 2022 Environmental Fair to see what topics people were interested in.

Mr. Alavandi stated he could ask his neighbors what they were interested in. He stated the footfall last year was very poor; but was much better at the library.

Ms. Richart discussed Wisconsin makes a conscious effort to include tribal nations by bringing back traditional foods such as planting wild rice and growing indigenous foods that have strong ecological benefits for the environment. There could be a connection between composting, healthy food and healthy soils if the Committee partnered with the Trickster Center.

Mr. Radtke stated another idea is sustainable gardening practices with plants that sustain each other.

Mr. Wachsmuth stated another issue is water conservation.

Mr. Puskarz stated last year people were asking why Schaumburg doesn't allow chickens. Ms. Richart stated we do allow chickens; but you must get special approval for it, and the criteria is limiting. It isn't allowed by right.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**DEFERRALS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Radtke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alavandi to adjourn the meeting.

**All Ayes. Two members were absent.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Monica Richart Sustainability Planner

I have reviewed the minutes, and they accurately represent the actions taken by the Environmental Committee.



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Trisha Kern, Recording Secretary  
Environmental Committee



**2025 Environmental Fair – Planning  
10/3/2024  
Environmental Committee**

Presenter: Monica Richart, Sustainability Planner  
Lead Department: Community Development

***Executive Summary:***

The Committee’s 2024 Work Plan recommends the speakers, exhibitors, and outreach campaign for the 2025 Environmental Fair be finalized by December. This ensures outreach can be placed in spring brochures distributed by the Village and its partners. To meet this date, the Committee should begin the planning process. The Committee distributed a survey to solicit feedback from the public on topics of interest for future events during the 2023 Septemberfest. Attached is a summary of the 2023 Septemberfest survey results for use in planning a theme for the 2025 event.

***Recommended Action:***

For discussion

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Type
▣ Survey Summary	Exhibit

## Environmental Fair Survey Summary of Results

Are you a resident of Schaumburg?	YES	NO	
	32	16	
<b>Did you know? (Check all that you are aware of)</b>			
	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Schaumburg has an Environmental Committee	21	2	23
Schaumburg holds an annual recycling event in April	20	5	25
Schaumburg holds an annual recycling event in the fall	17	5	22
Schaumburg holds an environmental fair every spring	9	4	13
<b>Would activities for children increase your likelihood of attending the environmental fair?</b>			
	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Yes	15	6	21
No	13	9	24
<b>What topics are you interested in learning about? (Check all that apply)</b>			
	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Alternative Transportation (Walk, Bike, Electric Bikes, Transit)	16	4	20
Energy (Conservation, Energy Efficiency, Renewables)	19	3	22
Wildlife, Green Space, Ecology (Native Plants, Butterfly Gardens, Removal of Invasive Species, Rain Gardens, etc.)	17	5	22
Gardening, Composting, and Local Food	14	4	18
Green Home Technology (Smart Thermostats, Heat Pumps, Induction Stoves, etc.)	9	1	10
Outdoor Recreation, Parks	10	4	14
Waste Reduction (Recycling, Material Re-Use)	15	3	18
Water (Efficiency, Conservation, Quality)	15	5	20
<b>How do you hear about events or programs happening in the Village?</b>			
	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Cracker Barrel Newsletter	18	2	20
E-Newsletter (Progress Report)	9	0	9
Village Website	8	3	11
Email	6	1	7
Facebook	4	2	6
Twitter	4	0	4
Instagram	2	0	2
LinkedIn	1	1	2
You Tube	1	0	1
Nextdoor	3	1	4



**2024 Septemberfest Booth – Final Report  
10/3/2024  
Environmental Committee**

Presenter: Monica Richart, Sustainability Planner  
Lead Department: Community Development

***Executive Summary:***

The Environmental Committee has reserved a Courtesy Booth for one day of the Septemberfest celebration since 2006. The theme of the booth typically reflects current trends related to the environment. Attached is the final report of the Environmental Fair that the Committee can use to plan the 2025 event.

***Recommended Action:***

For discussion

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Type
▣ Staff Memo	Exhibit





**VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG**  
PROGRESS THROUGH THOUGHTFUL PLANNING

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: September 20, 2024  
To: Donna Panico Atkins, Chairperson  
Environmental Committee Members  
From: Monica Richart, Sustainability Planner  
Subject: 2024 Septemberfest Booth – Discussion of Event Success

**Introduction:**

The Environmental Committee has reserved a Courtesy Booth for one day of the Septemberfest celebration since 2006. The theme of the booth typically reflects current trends related to the environment. In 2024, the Committee focused on the construction and environmental benefits of rain gardens.

A final report of the event with recommendations for the 2025 event are below. Updates from the Environmental Committee are shown in italics.

**Discussion:**

Over the years, the Committee has provided information on many environmental topics as illustrated in the list below. Since 2006, the Committee has participated in the event annually except in 2016 when the Committee was organizing a fall environmental fair and in 2020 when the event was cancelled due to the pandemic. Typically, the Committee coordinates the information to be displayed at the booth and staff assists in the preparation of the display materials.

2006: CFL bulb exhibit  
2007: Rain barrels  
2008: Plastic bags vs. cloth bags  
2009: Energy efficiency, taking the EnergyStar pledge, Emerald Ash Borer  
2010: Recycled vs. virgin aluminum and composite wood decking vs. wood decking  
2011: Landscape Award Program: award recipients  
2012: Working bike and light board display  
2013: Eco-friendly insecticides and cleaners  
2014: Vertical farming  
2015: Energy efficiency and understanding how to read energy bills  
2016: Did not attend  
2017: Monarchs  
2018: Monarchs  
2019: Monarchs  
2020: Cancelled  
2021: Community Solar Program  
2022: Recycling and reducing use of plastics  
2023: Conducted online survey regarding Environmental Fair topics  
2024: Rain Gardens

**Community Development**

2024 Septemberfest – Discussion of Event Success  
Environmental Committee  
September 20, 2024

### **Event Information:**

Date: Saturday, August 31, 2024  
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Place: Robert O. Atcher Municipal Center

### **Booth Reservation:**

The Committee chooses the date they will attend, and the Sustainability Planner reserves the booth space annually.

### **Handouts:**

Two (2) handouts were prepared for the event.

- Flyer explaining rain gardens
- Fall recycling event flyer

Staff placed the flyers in frames for display at the booth. Additionally, staff provided fifteen (15) paper copies of the rain garden flyer. *The committee noted the flyers for the rain gardens were popular, often taken to read later instead of staying to discuss in person.*

### **Booth Activity:**

The Committee used the buzzer board to engage people at the booth. The questions from the Environmental Fair were re-used for the Septemberfest booth. The buzzer board was re-built by staff this year to be lighter and is designed to display six (6) questions with three (3) options for answers. Participants touch a wand to the button corresponding to the answer they choose. If the correct answer is chosen a green light is illuminated, if the wrong answer is chosen a red light is illuminated and a buzzing sound is heard. The board is powered by a pack of double-A batteries and should be tested before the event.

Sue Cubberly agreed to participate alongside the Environmental Committee and discuss rain garden construction and the Rain Garden Network. She brought her laptop to conduct one on one consultations with participants.

*The committee stated toward the end of the morning booth traffic started to pick up and a steady stream continued through the middle of the day, while the early evening shift said traffic slowed until 5pm. The use of the car counter was suggested to get a general idea of how many people approached the booth. Volunteers received many questions about rain barrels and less discussion on rain gardens as compared to the Environmental Fair. The Committee noted that this was likely due to the difference in events and that Septemberfest attendees often show interest in simple and readily applicable tips and practices.*

### **Booth Materials**

Septemberfest provides a canopy, two (2) tables measuring six (6) feet in length and two (2) chairs. Staff coordinates other materials used in the booth such as the buzzer board, banner, and display materials. Committee members use public transportation or drive to travel to the event, so these materials are placed in a plastic bin in the lobby of the Prairie Center where Committee members can locate them on the day of the event.

Staff provided seed packets, coloring books and crayons from the environmental fair to be used for prizes for completing the buzzer board quiz. *The Committee felt that seed packets are an appropriate give away item that should be continued and discussed including a species suitable for fall planting at the Septemberfest event. The Committee suggested packaging the seeds with stickers from the Environmental Committee, possibly including a QR code with the recycling event dates or website link. The Committee also discussed creating a banner to hang from the booth to draw more attention to the booth.*

### **Volunteers**

The Environmental Committee provides staffing for the event. Six (6) committee members staffed the booth in shifts from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **Parking**

Committee members use public transportation or park in designated parking lots.

2024 Septemberfest – Discussion of Event Success  
Environmental Committee  
September 20, 2024

**Recommendation**

For discussion.