

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2021

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: March 16, 2021
Called to Order: 7:07 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Present
Todd Birman	Commissioner	Present
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
David Meehan	Commissioner	Present
Steve Swanson	Commissioner	Present
Jennifer E. Umlauf	Commissioner	Present

Also Present:

Emily Rodman	Assistant Village Manager	
Craig Pryde	Trustee Liaison	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
PUBLIC		
Jeff Gahris	DuPage Forest Preserve Commissioner	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The **March 16, 2021** regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at **7:07 PM** at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center via Zoom Call.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Jeff Gahris, recently elected DuPage Forest Preserve Commissioner, introduces himself to the Environmental Commission. He has spoken with Trustee Christiansen regarding Heritage Oak Tree Preservation. He adds he is here to support the Environmental Commission in any way he can. Chairman Truitt

states the EC is stewards of trees and asks if there are any initiatives he knows of that the EC can partner with. He replies, OAKtober with the Morton Arboretum. Chairman Truitt asks Gahris if he is aware of any successes in other towns that we can learn from. Gahris replies, The Village of Glendale Heights is doing monarch gardens as a way to engage their community. Chairman Truitt thanks Gahris for coming to tonight's meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2021 MEETING

MOVE TO APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FROM 2/23/2021

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Swanson

SECONDER: Commissioner Abeln

AYES: Truitt, Abeln, Birman, Casazza, Meehan & Swanson

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

V. COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Arts Initiatives: Commissioner Umlauf reports that Adrienne Gregory will be meeting with Assistant Manager Rodman to discuss the arts initiative grant. There is a \$12,000 grant that we were thinking of using to paint the concrete wall across from Young's Appliance. We were thinking of having a contest in order to get the public involved and submit art ideas. We want to make full use of this grant. Ideally we could use the funds for the wall and if there are extra funds left over, we could use those to help fund the Ped-way mural. This would help draw awareness to the GE fund. Assistant Manager Rodman asks if the wall across from Young's Appliance is village owned. If it is, the village will want to see mock-ups of the wall painting. She adds, she will check to see if the wall is owned by the village.

B. Marketing & Education Topics: Chairman Truitt reports April 25th is our Earth Day Symposium. The Park District has started advertising for this event. Commissioners Casazza, Swanson and Umlauf have offered to volunteer for this event. There will be 7 different presentations: Lands for birds & pollinators, Conservation and home certification program, Dark Sky, Native Tree Selection & Community Engagement, Natural Lawn Care, Recycling & Curbside composting and Storm water management solutions. We have speakers coming from the Morton Arboretum and the Conservation Foundation to present on these topics. We still have some work to do on the promotional website. I will send out a sign up for the EC commissioners to volunteer to sign up as a Host/Moderator for these presentations. After the symposium the Park District will host a follow-up website where the videos will be available to view for a period of time.

Our next Green Gathering at the library will be on April 14th at 7:00 p.m. via zoom on Sustainable landscaping.

June 9th the Morton Arboretum will discuss healthy lawns, tree & shrubs and habitats.

September 8th the Morton Arboretum will discuss a variety of topics that will be tied to our Native Tree and Plant Sale.

Commissioner Casazza states Adam Kreuzer has asked if the EC can promote Earth Hour on March 27th from 7:00-8:00 pm (turn off outdoor lights and see the stars). This could bring further awareness to dark skies. Chairman Truitt states we can see if Meghan can promote this. If she is unable to promote it due to the short timeline, perhaps we can do this next year.

Recycling Extravaganza – Commissioner Abeln reports the date that works best for this event is September 18th. We need to update the website to reflect the new date. Assistant Village Manager Rodman will reach out to COD to confirm. Rodman adds she followed up with the county and they may have a \$600.00 grant that can be used toward the paper shredding. We will need to get an updated quote on the shredding. She will follow up on the shredding quote. Commissioner Abeln reports that he has received participation confirmations from Scarce, Habitat for Humanity, Alliance Club, the GE Food Pantry and the Boy Scouts. Batteries Plus will not be participating this year. He is still waiting to hear back from Dart (Styrofoam), E-Paint and the lightbulb vendor. Chairman Truitt will add the Recycling Extravaganza to the April agenda.

C. Greenest Region Compact Initiatives - Economic Development – Guidelines for Businesses (Green Building Manual): Commissioner Meehan reports that the draft was circulated to the EC commissioners but he has not received any feedback. He asks the EC Commissioners to give their feedback by next Tuesday. Once he and Commissioner Birman receive the feedback, they will update the document and review it again next month with the EC.

VI. Trustee Liaison Report – Trustee Pryde reports the Plan Commission is hearing updates to the Comprehensive Plan. The Village has awarded exterior and interior grants of up to \$5,000 to businesses for COVID relief. That program has been extended to the end of the year. The Village board is debating a height variance for the Apex project. The Glenwood Station (McChesney site) is on track for October/November start date. The Village Board is trying to finalize the CBD Streetscape design and budget. The Village Board is tasked with finalizing the Comprehensive Plan. In May a new board will take over, after which you will get a new Trustee Liaison. My term is up in May. Chairman Truitt thanks Trustee Pryde for his service.

VII. Staff Liaison Report – Assistant Village Manager Rodman reports that the ice rink will be coming down at the end of the month. Pan Fish Park has served as a passive park that takes 5% of the village storm water. There is a group of residents in the area who were interested in seeing some improvements to the park. There was a tree

survey that was conducted that identified the removal of 30 trees and the remaining trees were pruned and trimmed. The next step is to evaluate the storm water structure. We are looking to do some work along the shoreline and plant some native plants that will help with the storm water management.

VIII. Park District Liaison's Report – No report

IX. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting will be held on April 20, 2021.
- B. Commissioner Abeln motions and Commissioner Meehan seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

MOVE TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING FROM 2/23/2021

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Umlauf

SECONDER: Commissioner Casazza

AYES: Truitt, Abeln, Birman, Casazza, Meehan & Swanson

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Rodman