

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: February 23, 2021
Called to Order: 7:03 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:27 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	Absent

Also Present:

Christina Coyle	Finance Director Staff Liaison	Present
Craig Pryde	Liaison Trustee	Absent
Elijah Bebora	Staff Intern	Absent
Emily Rodman	Assistant Village Manager	Present
Katie Hardesty	Student Intern	Present
Renae Frigo	Park District Liaison	Present
PUBLIC		
Nicole G	Glen Ellyn Resident	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 23, 2021 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at 7:03 PM at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center via Zoom Call.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Glen Ellyn resident Nicole G asks the EC how to spread the word on curbside composting. She adds there is not a lot of people composting and asks if a campaign has been done to get the word out. Chairman Truitt replies Commissioner Umlauf has put together a video on this topic. Director Coyle adds,

currently 4% of households in Glen Ellyn compost (approx. 318 households). Commissioner Swanson adds perhaps we could do a survey to find out why residents do or do not compost. Chairman Truitt adds we will cover composting at our April event. We will also add this topic to our March agenda to further discuss. Chairman Truitt thanks Nicole for coming tonight.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2021 MEETING**

MOVE TO APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FROM 1/26/2021

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Casazza

SECONDER: Commissioner Swanson

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

- IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Truitt welcomes new student intern Katie Hardesty. Katie Hardesty is a junior at Glenbard West High School. She found out about this position through the GBW Eco Club.

V. **COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND REPORTS**

A. *Arts Initiatives:* Chairman Truitt reports that Commissioner Umlauf is part of the GE and COD committee that is overseeing the funds for public art. She is waiting to hear back on a date for the first meeting.

Chairman Truitt reports that in the past the EC has supported the One Earth Film Festival. The One Earth Film festival starts this weekend. We are planning to sponsor again this year. We are looking to sponsor a film closer to Earth Day.

B. *Marketing & Education Topics:* Chairman Truitt reports that we are partnering with the Conservation Foundation for our next Green Gathering. It will be on April 14th at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. The topic will be Sustainable landscaping and will be an hour long with a question and answer session.

Our next big event will be April 25th Earth Day Symposium. At this online event we will have various speakers lined up, it will be a zoom webinar and we will set up a site for registration. 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. Those who register will be able to pick 3 presentations to watch. All the presentations will be available on video as ongoing education. Chairman Truitt asks Director Coyle if we can share the presentation links on the Village website. Director Coyle replies yes, we can talk with Meghan about doing that. Chairman Truitt asks the EC commissioners to sign up for one of the presentations to be a Host/Moderator. The host will introduce the speaker and assist in the question & answer sessions.

Park District Liaison Frigo reports the next event we are considering is on April 30th. This will be our Red Oak Arbor Day Tree Giveaway Event. We will have 1 tree that will be made available to GE to plant in a celebratory way. We will also be looking to get some additional trees to give away. We won't be able to do large gatherings due to COVID, but people could come by to pick up a free tree. We are still working on the details of this event. She asks if the EC is interested in partnering with the Park District on this event. Chairman Truitt adds CRTI and the Morton Arboretum has a tree campaign starting on April 1st highlighting the importance of trees. This event would be a great way to end the month.

June 9th will be zoom topics discussing healthy lawns, tree & shrubs and habitats. We are also looking to have self-guided tours/talks at our demonstration gardens which are located at the Boathouse, Village green and the butterfly garden at Mary Knoll Park. Chairman Truitt asks Director Coyle if we can post these talks online. Director Coyle replies yes.

September will be our Native Tree and Plant Sale. Chairman Truitt asks the EC when they would like to offer the Recycling Extravaganza; August or September. Commissioner Meehan prefers to offer it in the fall. Chairman Truitt states either September 18th or October 2nd or 9th are possible options. Commissioner Abeln will reach out to the anchor tenants to lock in a date. Director Coyle adds, you would want to use the COD parking lot again, so you'll need to check with them as well. Assistant Village Manager Rodman will check with COD on a date for the recycling extravaganza.

C. Greenest Region Compact Initiatives - Economic Development – Guidelines for Businesses (Green Building Manual): Commissioner Meehan reports that he and Commissioner Birman came up with a draft that goes through different categories of practices we want businesses and residents to take in order to be eligible for recognition awards. We forwarded the draft to Chairman Truitt. Chairman Truitt will share the document with the EC. Commissioner Meehan adds, this draft is a work in progress. Once we receive your feedback, we will edit it and put it in a 1 page document. Chairman Truitt asks Director Coyle and Assistant Manager Rodman how can the EC set up a framework for recognition awards for those businesses and residents who adhere to the guidelines. Director Coyle replies, the HPC has a nomination procedure in place where a nomination form is filled out and then reviewed by the commission. Once the nomination procedure is completed it goes before the village board. Chairman Truitt adds, we will work on how the EC will give out the recognition.

VI. Trustee Liaison Report – No report.

VII. Staff Liaison Report – Director Coyle reports that the CBD Streetscape project was brought before the board again. We did share the EC's feedback. The board has decided to push back the start of the CBD Streetscape project to 2022. At that time we will look to the EC to help with the marketing of the tree plan. Director Coyle states that tonight will be her last meeting as Staff Liaison to the EC now that Assistant Village Manager Rodman is back from maternity leave. She thanks the EC.

Chairman Truitt thanks Director Coyle for all she has done and welcomes Assistant Manager Rodman back and adds the EC is looking forward to working with her.

VIII. Park District Liaison's Report – Park District Liaison Frigo reports the DuPage River Sweep will be on Saturday May 15th from 9:00-12:00. If anyone is interested in participating or knows of any groups interested in participating to please register. The Conservation Foundation is a sponsor of this event and registration information can be found on their website. Student Intern Hardesty will spread the word to the ECO club.

IX. Next Meeting & Adjournment

A. The next EC meeting will be held on March 16, 2021.

B. Commissioner Abeln motions and Commissioner Meehan seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

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

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Abeln

SECONDER: Commissioner Meehan

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

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Coyle