

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

JULY 20, 2021

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: July 20, 2021
Called to Order: 7:04 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:01 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
Karin Daly	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
David Meehan	Commissioner	Absent
Steve Swanson	Commissioner	Present
Jennifer E. Umlauf	Commissioner	Present

Also Present:

Elijah Bebora	Staff Intern	
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee	
Renae Frigo	Park District Liaison	
Katie Hardesty	Glenbard West Student Eco Club Intern	
PUBLIC		
Stephanie Restrivo	GE resident	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The **July 20, 2021** regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at **7:06 PM** at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center via Zoom Call.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 22, 2021 MEETING – Commissioner Swanson requests to defer the minute approval to August meeting.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

- V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT** – Trustee Christiansen reports that the Village Board took another look at the plan for the train station. This project will start in 2024/2025. The CBD Streetscape project will start in 2022. She adds, you are able to sign up to receive updates on this project. The Comprehensive Plan is out on the portal and the Village Board is looking for feedback. On Saturday at 9:00-11:00 at the Police Station Community Room there will be an informal gathering with two Trustees in attendance to discuss upcoming projects as well as any other topics attendees would like to discuss. There is hiring going on in the Village. There are opportunities available for those interested in working in Civil Service. If you know of anyone please refer them to the Village website. September is our budget process; if the EC has any budgetary needs now is the time to request it for next year. Please make a list of what you want and submit it.

Chairman Truitt states that there are some follow up meetings that she would like to set up. She would like to set up 3 workshops to review the Comprehensive Plan as well as come up with a Strategic Sustainable plan to present to the Village Board. Staff Intern Bebora will follow up with Chairman Truitt to schedule the workshops. The agenda for these workshops will include the review of the Streetscape Plan, the Comprehensive Plan and the Mayor Caucus.

- VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT** – Intern Bebora reports that starting next month all commission meetings will be held in person at the Civic Center. The Village Board approved the mural for the Ped-Way on July 12th. Panels were delivered to COD and the artist will begin painting. Once the panels are installed, the finishing touches will be completed. The installation should be completed in the next few weeks. Commissioner Umlauf asks if there will be an unveiling ceremony with music. Intern Bebora states he will look into that and report back.

- VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT** – Park District Liaison Frigo reports that they had the garden tour/talks and she thanks Commissioners Swanson and Umlauf for their work on them. There were a total of ten talks. Unfortunately, the turnout was not what we were hoping for. There has been a discussion to turn the talks into audio talks. Some of the talks are on the Park District website. There is also a tool/QR code for people to get more information on the plants at the boathouse.

Commissioner Casazza asks how the talks were publicized. Frigo states through the Park District and social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Frigo reports that she emailed Jen at the Conservation Foundation regarding the upcoming tree and shrub sale. She will get the official order form this week. The Conservation Foundation will be using a local nursery. They will have 11 shrubs and 6 trees to offer and stated that they will have enough inventories. The sale will start on August 15th and will end at 5:00 P.M. on September 15th. Pickup will be Saturday September 25th in the morning at Sunset pool. Last year we had over 200 orders.

Chairman Truitt asks if the sale can be extended through September 19th to coincide with the Recycle Extravaganza so we can promote it when people come to that event. Frigo states she will check with Jen at the Conservation Foundation about the date extension. Frigo suggests having a QR code at the Recycling event for people to scan so it will bring them right to the order form.

Frigo reports the Conservation Foundation has some oaks they may be able to donate for a giveaway for Oaktober and Oak education. Commissioner Casazza suggests encouraging homeowners to dress up their oak trees for Halloween to draw attention and awareness to them.

Frigo reports the Park District is hosting movies in the park this summer. She states they have talked about offering an environmental documentary. She spoke with the staff at COD and they will continue to offer films followed by a Q&A session. They have showing rights for the film *Kiss the Ground*, a documentary about sustainability and food growth. The Park District has set up a showing of this film on September 14th at Lake Ellyn and is looking for partners for this event. We will have a forty-five minute showing including a Q&A on this film. She asks if this is something the EC would be interested in taking part in and promoting.

Commissioner Swanson adds it is a great documentary. He thinks it would be great for the EC to take part in. Commissioner Umlauf states she would be happy to be a part of the composting Q&A. Commissioner Kwiatkowski adds that an educational piece on composting would be helpful especially for those who want to compost, but are too intimidated. Commissioner Casazza adds, we could also promote composting at our Recycling Extravaganza and Plant Sale. Trustee Christensen adds there may be an opportunity at the Taste of Glen Ellyn to get the word out on composting as well. Chairman Truitt states the EC would like partner with the Park District on this event. Commissioner Daly offers to help with the promotional efforts on composting.

VIII. COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Sustainable Communities:

1. *Arts:* Commissioner Kwiatkowski reports on the utility wraps. The box by the library is unpainted due to the rain. They will possibly finish next week. She spoke with Amanda Harris at the Village of Elgin. Utility boxes there are not owned by third parties. They pay \$1000 for the artist to paint the box. They use the company *Sign by Tomorrow*, for their wraps. Signs by Tomorrow use a 3M vinyl for their wraps. The cost is \$650 per box including installation. Commissioner Kwiatkowski went to Downtown GE and counted 3 to 5 utility boxes. Chairman Truitt states that those by the train station could be included in the Metra station project. Commissioner Kwiatkowski suggests that they could also have a wrap sponsored by a business or organization. She will continue to gather information.

Intern Hardesty reports that she has spoken to people in the community and they are confused as to what can be recycled. She asks if we could get stickers that can be put on the recycling bins or put a graphic on the website for people to review what items to recycle. Commissioner Umlauf states she has about 300 graphics that we can pass out at the Recycle Extravaganza. Chairman Truitt would like to redistribute those in the community and also add that information to our website. Commissioner Casazza

will work on this with Intern Hardesty and Meghan to promote this information on our website.

2. *Mobility*: Chairman Truitt asks if there is a commissioner interested in working on the East Branch DuPage River Trail initiative. We need a representative who would work with the other organizations and report back to the Village Board of Trustees. Commissioner Umlauf states Ginger Wheeler worked on this for many years and has all the information. Commissioner Daly volunteers to work on this initiative.

B. Land Use:

1. *Greenscaping*: Chairman Truitt reports that we should collaborate with the Park District on this initiative. Liaison Frigo adds Manor Woods, Pan Fish Parks, and Lambert Lake could be sites for this initiative. Those green spaces are managed by the Public Works and some are managed by Village Links. They are looking for a big volunteer effort to get those spaces elevated. The staff is interested and the community could be as well. Commissioner Swanson adds that it does not have to be a huge area. The EC could find a smaller green space area to promote. Commissioners Swanson and Umlauf offer to be part of this initiative.

2. *Stewardship of Trees*: Chairman Truitt reports we want to encourage tree preservation and awareness. She asks if Commissioner Umlauf is interested in working on this. Umlauf states yes.

C. Economic Development:

1. *Green Businesses*: Chairman Truitt reports Commissioner Kwiatkowski volunteered to develop a recognition program. She will work with HPC on this initiative. Commissioner Casazza adds Go Green of Illinois has a draft of Green Guidelines that she will share with the EC. Commissioner Umlauf is also interested in working to get restaurants to behave better with their packaging. Commissioner Casazza thinks it is important to discuss this with the businesses before we roll out the guidelines given the difficulties they have gone through with the pandemic. The EC agrees. Chairman Truitt states we should start with the Downtown Alliance or the Chamber on this initiative.

IX. Next Meeting & Adjournment

A. The next EC meeting will be held on August 17, 2021 (In-person).

B. Commissioner Umlauf motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Rodman