

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 21, 2021

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: September 21, 2021
Called to Order: 7:03 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:10 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

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

Also Present:

Elijah Bebora	Staff Intern	
Renae Frigo	Park District Liaison	
Katie Hardesty	Glenbard West Student Eco Club Intern	
Kelly Christiansen	Trustee Liaison	
PUBLIC		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The **September 21, 2021** regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at **7:03 PM** at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 17, 2021 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Abeln motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds the motion to approve the minutes from August 17, 2021 and September 7, 2021.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 8/17/2021 & 9/7/2021

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Abeln

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Truitt announces Commissioner Meehan has resigned from the EC.

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT – Trustee Christiansen reports I have not received the recycling resolution if you can please send it to me. The budget meeting will be early to mid-October, please send in any requests you may have. The Village is hiring a consultant to discuss the next step in finding the best use for the hotel property. The Village is looking to find transitional housing for those who are living there now. They have been given eviction notices. Jeff Gahris is working on a tree preservation ordinance to help people figure out how old their trees are, if that is something the EC would like to take part in, please contact Jeff Gehris.

Commissioner Daly states she put in a public comment on the Avere on Forest Development. They want to go up to the Prairie Path with that project. Trustee Christiansen states it will be part of the backyard to the property. The development will be 4 stories with underground parking for residents. The VB asked the Avere developer to rethink the aesthetics; we thought it was too modern. There is a pre application plan meeting for this Thursday, September 23 with the Plan Commission.

Commissioner Swanson asks if there are questions on the sustainability of the building and making it green. Trustee Christiansen states that the VB members have asked that we have early access to the design of it. The developer was very responsive to that. The Avere development on Duane is 100% leased, earlier than expected. I urge you all to review the agenda packet on the Plan Commission. The EC can attend the meeting on Thursday. I urge you to go to voice your thoughts on Environmental issues.

Chairman Truitt asks if a formal comment from the EC can be submitted. Trustee Christiansen states yes you can send it to the Village Manager and to Tim Loftus at the Plan Commission.

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT – Staff Intern Beborra reports that the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition recognized GE as a We Compost partner for its participation in a commercial compost program.

VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT – Liaison Frigo reports that the Native Tree and Plant sale doubled from last year, 450 items were sold in total. They will be delivering them on Friday, September 24th.

Frigo states if anyone is available to help on Saturday, September 25th they should come by at 8:30. The official start is 9-11 at Sunset Pool. Last week we did the Eco movie at the park. We had about 75 to 100 attendees. There has been a lot of time spent on the Park District Trees. They are having a hard time with the Oaks because of the drought. They are trying to figure out how to manage the trees. We had 2 large Oaks at Lake Ellyn die. We are working with a tree company to access the trees. Chairman Truitt asks if there is a message we could put out about the Oak trees. Trustee Frigo states yes, we would be able to do that.

Chairman Truitt states we will ask Meghan about the social media campaigning for Oaktober since it is coming up next month.

VIII. COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Sustainable Communities:

1. Arts: Commissioner Kwiatkowski reports on the library utility boxes. The information about the wraps has been sent to AT&T, but I am still waiting to hear back from them. There are 5 more utility boxes that needed maintenance. Commissioner Swanson sister has done artwork for the Nature Conservatory and would be happy to do the artwork. I am wondering if I should wait to hear back from AT&T or if I should send the information to them on what the artwork would cost. Chairman Truitt asks Commissioner Kwiatkowski if she can send the photos of the boxes that have already been done elsewhere. Commissioner Kwiatkowski states yes, I will send the pictures. She adds we could also see about sharing the costs with sponsors. Chairman Truitt adds perhaps the library would be interested in partnering with the EC on this initiative.

Chairman Truitt reports that the artwork was installed at the Pedway. We want to continue to encourage community art.

Commissioner Abeln spoke to Village Manager Franz at the art mural pedway and he said it is a good idea to do the Taylor Street Tunnel now. He sees the vision as a way to pull people outside of GE to come see the artwork at the tunnel. Chairman Truitt asks if it would be appropriate to give our encouragement to include that with the Streetscape Project. Trustee Christiansen states yes, it would be. You could send an email and I can pass that along.

2. Mobility: Commissioner Daly reports that the EBRT steering committee meeting is this Friday, September 24th. She will give more updates after the meeting.

B. Economic Development:

1. *Green Businesses:* Chairman Truitt reports that Commissioner Umlauf put together a short checklist of 10 things to follow/consider for new developments. She took what Commissioner Meehan had worked on and updated it: They are as follows:

1. During construction have waste disposable on site
2. Use construction materials under the guidelines for selection
3. Provide composting/recycling in the design plan
4. Be electric car friendly
5. Have bicycle stands
6. Have new and protected trees
7. Apply salt in the winter only when needed
8. Dark sky lightning
9. Have sustainable energy as applicable

10. Use public art

Chairman Truitt states once approved this list will be given to the Plan Commission; they will be asked for their advocacy. Trustee Christiansen states that she likes the idea of sending this list to the Plan Commission. This could educate them on sustainability and perhaps the EC could do a presentation for them.

Chairman Truitt reports that Commissioner Umlauf and Casazza met with the Chamber and Downtown Alliance to ask how we could collaborate with restaurants. They talked about coming up with a short survey asking them if they use paper or plastic bags, straws and perhaps ask what are some of their challenges they face. They suggested doing the research for the restaurants because they are so busy and short staffed and report their findings to them.

Commissioner Daly reports that Chicago passed an ordinance that people need to ask for utensils on their takeout orders in order to be more sustainable.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski states I was thinking about asking the Chamber what they think would be a good reward for our Recognition Program. Chairman Truitt states that Chamber does provide visibility for their members. Maybe speak with Commissioner Casazza on the top 5 things we want in order for business to be recognized. If we can get that list by next meeting, then we can start recognizing businesses.

C. Waste:

1. Recycling and Composting: Chairman Truitt asks the EC to give Commissioner Abeln a round of applause for his great work on the Recycling Extravaganza. She asks if anyone has any recommendations for next year. Commissioner Daly states that next year we should order lawn signs to better direct people to the event or on the flier we could put a map. Chairman Truitt agrees. Commissioner Abeln states we should double the amount of signs for next year. I also think we should include the recycling of aerosol cans for next year's event. Commissioner Swanson states there should be early promotion for aerosol cans since there was a large amount of Styrofoam. Commissioner Abeln states next year we will plan to offer recycling of electronics and aerosol cans. We will also have the Salvation Army next year. I will also look into batteries for next year. Commissioner Kwiatkowski states that next year we could possibly offer to recycle oils, propane tanks, and fertilizers. She asks if we could put something on our website to direct people on where they can drop off their recyclables in the meantime. Student Intern Hardesty reports that we have discussed what people should/can recycle in their blue bin. She asks who I should talk to in order make those changes on the website.

Chairman Truitt asks if we want to do another Recycling Extravaganza again in the spring. Commissioner Swanson states it depends on the vendors' availability to participate. Commissioner Abeln adds we need to get back to offering this in the spring, near Earth Day, and also do a clean sweep once a year.

Commissioner Daly states we spoke with the people at the Eco Fair who were interested in composting and the one question we had was how do we find out if people signed up for composting from our Eco event. Intern Bebora states he will follow up on that.

D. Water Treatment and Stormwater Management: No report

E. Land Use:

1. *Greenscaping/Trees:* Commissioner Swanson states that my thought was to have the homeowners come to an event where they could learn about the trees on their property. Chairman Truitt asks if there is a certain area in GE that has the most trees that could be landmarked to house an education event. This could be a great way to educate and do outreach. Liaison Frigo states that winter is when you prune Oak trees, so that would be a great time to schedule an event like this at the boathouse. Chairman Truitt states we can also see what Jeff Gehris has to say.

IX. OLD BUSINESS – None

X. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting will be held on October 19, 2021.
- B. Commissioner Swanson motions and Commissioner Daly seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Rodman