

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 19, 2021

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: October 19, 2021
Called to Order: 7:07 p.m.
Adjourned: 10:02 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
Steve Swanson	Commissioner	Present
Jennifer E. Umlauf	Commissioner	Present

Also Present:

Emily Rodman	Assistant Village Manager	
Katie Hardesty	Glenbard West Student Eco Club Intern	
Kelly Christiansen	Trustee Liaison	
PUBLIC		
Penn French	Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The **October 19, 2021** regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at **7:07 PM** at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Chairman Truitt introduces Penn French to the EC. He is the Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission and is interested in having the HPC collaborate with the EC on common initiatives.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Commissioner Swanson seconds the motion to approve the minutes from September 21, 2021.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 9/21/2021

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

SECONDER: Commissioner Swanson

- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Truitt announces applications are being accepted for the 2 open commissioner positions. We have received more than 20 applications. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to submit an application.
- V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT** – Trustee Christiansen reports at the village board meeting there was another construction variance request that was tabled. There was also discussion regarding the McKee House. In 2017 the village entered into an agreement with DuPage County Forest Preserve. The village agreed to restore it or tear it down. We currently are working on ways to restore the McKee house. There is interest from the Midwest Soaring Foundation. We are looking to turn the McKee House into the Native American Environmental Center at Churchill Woods. We are looking for \$4 million in funding over the next 4 years. Part of the agreement is we have to maintain the structure. The exterior would not change, it would be restored. There is a lot of moving parts to this project. I will send some literature to Emily Rodman and Chairman Truitt to distribute to the commission. The village board will be starting budgets soon.
- VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT** – Assistant Manager Rodman reports that Staff Intern Beborra has accepted a full-time position with the Village of River Forest. Communications Coordinator Megan Pham's last day will be next Thursday. We are working through what the transition for her position will be. The Village Board did adopt a new remote meeting ordinance. This allows for commissioners to participate in meetings remotely if it is for one of the following reasons: work travel, family emergency or illness. Those participating remotely would be able to call in to the meeting only if there is an in-person quorum. We are looking to transition the EC Staff Liaison position to John Hubsy. The next few meetings John will join me and in January he will take over the Staff Liaison position.
- VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT** – No report
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**
1. Discuss Tree Corridor Cultivation in Glen Ellyn Historic District- Chairman Truitt reports that one of the biggest threats is the cultivation of the urban forest. Our oak forest corridors fall within historic districts. We could target education and information around Glen Ellyn regarding the care of trees. Penn has done some research. He adds we can identify some of the older trees in GE. Some of them are on private property. If we put together an education piece and resources to help residents identify those trees and how to preserve them that could bring awareness to preservation. Chairman Truitt adds we could partner with the HPC on education events. The Park District, Rotary Club and Jeff Gahrns are interested in helping with this initiative. Chairman Truitt asks the EC if anyone is interested in supporting this initiative. Commissioners Umlauf and Daly volunteer for this initiative. Chairman Truitt adds we will keep this as an agenda item. Trustee Christiansen adds if a tree survey is something you want to do, you may consider putting that as a budget request.

2. Review Development Plans for the U.S. Bank Site – Assistant Village Manager Rodman presents the Avere on Forest plans (see attached presentation). She reports Reva Development Partners have provided a concept design for a 4-story multi-family development, which includes a site plan, floor plans, building sections, detailed elevations and renderings (see attached). In addition, 2 potential building material palettes have been provided, and several conceptual sketches for the amenity areas and park have been included. The project features a unique residential rental product with a combination of townhome units (floors 1-2 along the Duane Street frontage) and apartments. Some of the building features include: 2 residential terraces (for outdoor amenity space concepts, on-site storage, a fitness room, a club room, a pet wash station, a package room, and enclosed parking. The project would be predominately residential; the developers would like to incorporate a space adjacent to Prairie Path Park, where a small local vendor might sell ice cream/Italian Ice, coffee/donuts, beer/wine, etc. At this time, the developers have not had discussions with specific operators. The proposed “park amenity” is designated on the northwest part of the site plan and is approximately 1,150 square feet. The Village Board has asked the EC to provide feedback to these proposed plans. Chairman Truitt asks the EC to review the redevelopment packet and submit your list of recommendations to Emily by Monday Oct 25th. Emily will compile the list and send it back out to the commission. Once the EC approves the list, it will be reviewed at the November EC meeting.

3. Glen Ellyn’s GRC2 Scorecard – Chairman Truitt distributes the scorecard to the EC. She & Assistant Village Manager Rodman reviewed the scorecard that Finance Director Coyle marked up as to what the Village was already doing. This list a consolidated list of Glen Ellyn’s progress. These are items the village has either accomplished or is in progress. Truitt adds we could use this list to celebrate our accomplishments. In many of the categories, we are accomplishing several objectives. Perhaps within the category there are merit badges we can earn (i.e. bike friendly city, playful city, walk friendly city). Chairman Truitt asks if anyone is interested in doing some research to gain these recognitions. She asks the EC to review the packet and if they have any questions bring them to the next meeting.

4. Update from the Chicago Region Climate Action Plan – Chairman Truitt reports in our region as climate changes, the biggest threats are flooding, heat and drought. Chicago is working on their urban forest to help with flooding. We can look to preserve oak trees (drought), Native landscaping (education) and Stormwater redesign (flooding).

5. Comprehensive Plan Proposed Additions – Commissioner Casazza presents proposed language changes to the Comprehensive plan (see attached). She states the previous plan was completed in 2001. This plan is to take us to 2030. Many of the goals and objectives are repeated from the previous plan. The objectives are too vague when it comes to environmental changes. I recommend that the commission recommend we add proposed language of what sustainability means to GE to the Comprehensive Plan. Assistant Village Manager Rodman states she forwarded this on to Kelly Purvis who is in charge of the Comprehensive Plan. Chairman Truitt and Commissioner Casazza will reach out to Kelly Purvis to discuss the proposed

additions.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Commission Discussion and Reports

A. Sustainable Communities/Arts & Mobility:

1. Liaison to COD Arts Committee: Chairman Truitt would like a representative from the EC to take part in this committee. She asks if anyone on the EC is interested.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski volunteers to be the EC representative

2. Utilities Beautification Program – Kwiatkowski reports she spoke with her contact at AT&T and he stated this project it is a lot more complex than he thought and he is still working on it.

3. EBRT: Commissioner Daly reports she attended the steering committee meeting. They are dividing this project into 3 main parts. The Greenway Trail to the Prairie Path - the biggest issue is the railroad tracks and figuring out a safe crossing. The Prairie Path to Roosevelt Road – crossing at 53 & Roosevelt can be dangerous. The other area is Roosevelt to Butterfield. This project will take years to complete.

B. Economic Development/ Green Business:

1. *Business Recognition Program (see attached):* Commissioner Kwiatkowski reports The Green Business Recognition Program acknowledges local businesses that have made efforts in implementing environmentally sustainable practices. The application that was developed includes 10 criteria, one for restaurants and one for all other businesses. If they answer yes to 5 of the 10 criteria they are eligible for a nomination. This application is free and provides businesses with an easy checklist to help determine eligibility and submit nominations. The awards would be given out annually in April around Earth Day. Nominations should be submitted no later than February, so that they can be reviewed by the EC in March and awarded in April. The business would receive a certificate that can be displayed inside the business, and a decal that can be displayed on the door or window. Commissioner Casazza will bring this application to the Chamber for their feedback and will report back to the EC. Chairman Truitt states we want to make sure the village board approves this.

C. Waste:

1. *Recycling and Composting Tips on the Village Website:* Commissioner Casazza reports she and Student Commissioner Hardesty had a call with Megan to add more detail to the website regarding recycling and composting and it is now on the website.

2. Water Treatment & Management – Commissioner Swanson volunteers to do research on this initiative.

X. UPCOMING EVENTS – November – Decorating the Library Tree, January – Green Gathering Healthy Habits/Healthy Planet, February – Environmental Scorecard, TBD – Regional Environmental Commission Luncheon

XI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting will be held on November 16, 2021.
- B. Commissioner Umlauf motions and Commissioner Casazza seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Rodman