

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 25, 2022

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: January 25, 2022
Called to Order: 7:05 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:40 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Present
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	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
Katie Hardesty	Glenbard West Student Eco Club Intern	
John Hubsky	Assistant Public Works Director	
Renae Frigo	Park District Liaison	
Kelli Christiansen	Trustee Liaison	
PUBLIC		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The **January 25, 2022** regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at **7:05 PM** via Teleconference.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Chairman Truitt reports that Jeff Gahris submitted a public comment, which states he is recommending that the Village give consideration to adopting the new residential solar permitting software developed by the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), known as SolarAPP+. It streamlines the process dramatically, reduces staff time and potential backlogs and assures safe installations. The software is free, and comes with training by NREL staff.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 7, 2021 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Chairman Truitt seconds the motion to approve the minutes from December 7, 2021.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 12/7/2021

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

SECONDER: Chairman Truitt

ROLL CALL: Truitt, Daly, Kwiatkowski, Casazza, Swanson, Abeln, Umlauf

- IV. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT** – Trustee Christiansen reports the village board had a meeting last night and the board approved the Harding Glen town home development, which will include 23 town homes, 10 will have a first floor master suite. The Chamber of Commerce had their luncheon with Village Manager Franz and President Senak. The State of the Village was discussed. The CBD Streetscape project will begin in the spring. It will start south of Main (Duane & Hillside). This will be a 4-5 year project. The Village will be working on a variety of ways to help residents have access to the downtown businesses during this project. I encourage everyone to visit Polar Plaza.

- V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT** – Hubsky reports we are in the middle of snow season. We try to limit the amount of salt we use to protect the environment and the cost associated with it. We are looking at other de-icing materials to use on the Civic Center parking garage. We finished our annual water audit. We came in a 9.3% for non-revenue water. The IDNR wants it kept under 10%. If we exceed the 10% then there are steps we have to take to reduce it. We are also working on pruning trees in the village. We are doing this in-house and with contractors. The pruning should be completed in early March.

- VI. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT** – Frigo reports the Park District has been working on prep for ice skating activities. We have started planning our summer programs. We are also working on pruning and removing a lot of invasive shrubs and trees. We hired an environmentalist for the park district, Chris Gutman started last week. We are planning for Earth Day on April 24. Frigo states in the past the village and Park district share the cost of a \$1,000 donation to the Conservation Foundation. The CF assists GE with events and programs as well as consults with us. She asks if the village would like to contribute \$500 again this year.

Commissioner Daly motions to recommend the village contribute a \$500 donation to the Conservation Foundation; Commissioner Swanson seconds the motion.

MOVE TO RECOMMEND THE VILLAGE CONTRIBUTE \$500 TO CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Daly

SECONDER: Commissioner Swanson

ROLL CALL: Truitt, Daly, Kwiatkowski, Casazza,

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Green Landscaping with Green Energy (Guest Speaker) – Chairman Truitt reports our guest speaker from Elgin was unable to join us this evening. The guest speaker started his business in green energy and sustainable practices in landscaping. I will see if I can reschedule him for another time.
2. DuPage Foundation – Call for Grant Applications (attached) – Commissioner Umlauf reports in the past we received \$7,000 for our demonstration gardens and we received 12,000 for art in the pedestrian tunnel. There are grant applications that are due in March but most of the grants that pertain to the EC are due in September. The criteria for the grants are the project/initiative has to be something that is permanent and benefits the public.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Commission Discussion and Reports

A. Sustainable Communities/Arts & Mobility:

1. EBRT – Commissioner Daly reports that Ginger Wheeler has created an advisory council and asked me to serve on it. The DuPage County board will be hiring an engineering consultant for the next phase of the EBRT.

B. Economic Development/Green Business:

1. *Business Recognition Program:* Commissioner Kwiatkowski reports that the businesses who earn the recognition would receive the Glennie award. The award would not expire; the year the recognition is awarded will be included on the Glennie. I hope that we could add additional criteria each year so businesses can move up a level and become even more environmentally compliant. Trustee Christiansen adds she likes the idea, but is concerned on how you would verify and confirm the veracity of the applications. Commissioner Kwiatkowski adds it is a voluntary program and there has to be a certain amount of trust, there is no monetary gain. We will put the criteria on the website. Commissioner Casazza adds, perhaps we can have the GBW Eco club help us with verifying the applications. Trustee Christiansen adds a proposal regarding this program will need to be presented to the village board for approval. I will check on the process for this.

C. Waste Recycling & Composting

1. Marketing Communications –Commissioner Daly presents to the EC a sample marketing communications timeline that will help drive attention for EC events. We should have a full marketing plan with support from the village for large events. We can make use of the community calendar and on the Village social media. There are many ways we can get the word out on our initiatives/events. Chairman Truitt adds we will execute our events/initiatives to this proposed marketing communication timeline. We want to continue our partnership with the library. Other partnerships (with local organizations, Park District, Go Green etc.) are also important to widen participation in our events.

The upcoming EC events: April 7 – Green Gathering Earth Day – Sustainable yards. April 30 Recycling Extravaganza, May 7 – Composting,. June – Green Gathering Green landscaping – eliminating gas powered tools,

2. Water Treatment & Management- Commissioner Swanson reports on SEDAC, funded by Illinois EPA - advises on smart energy design and wastewater projects.

SEDAC offers free services for a whole host of items. They could help put together a plan and proposal to assist in obtaining federal funding. They are also aware of state funding opportunities. Chairman Truitt adds there are other key programs of the CEDAC – electric vehicles, energy efficiency, transition/equity sustainability plans. If we can tie in all these programs, we could possibly gain more grants. Swanson adds they can also give a baseline assessment of the scope of the project, outreach with stakeholders, goals setting action plan, take measurements where progress is made for energy conservation – all free. We have worked with them on a proposal for wastewater becoming more energy neutral. We hope to get a plan from them by the end of March. Chairman Truitt adds, Trustee Christiansen and I are looking at this and we are pulling all this together to bring to the board and get feedback and focus from President Senak. We will give an update at our next EC meeting.

Chairman Truitt adds, at our next EC meeting we will confirm the recycling extravaganza date and we will plan our April events. I will also see if we can set up some time to brainstorm our 2022 priorities.

IX. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting - February 15, 2022.
- B. Commissioner Swanson motions and Commissioner Umlauf seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Rodman