

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 15, 2022

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: February 15, 2022
Called to Order: 7:07 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:38 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:

Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
John Hubsky	Assistant Public Works Director	
PUBLIC		
Ray Whalen		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The **February 15, 2022** regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at **7:07 PM** via Teleconference.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 25, 2022 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Umlauf motions and Commission Daly seconds the motion to approve the minutes from January 25, 2022.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 1/25/2022

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Umlauf

SECONDER: Commissioner Daly

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

IV. GUEST SPEAKER – Commissioner Casazza introduces Ray Whalen, home builder in Glen Ellyn who is currently trying to preserve legacy oak trees. Whalen states he is working on a home at Forest Avenue where he is trying to seek a variance in order to preserve 4-5 historic oak trees. The home will have to have a detached garage based on the zoning codes. Whalen went before the ZBA to see if they would allow him to build an attached garage which would allow him to save the trees. He has gone been before the ZBA and the HPC and is coming before the EC because he believes each commission is charged with their own parameters. The HPC was in favor of granting the variance and the ZBA voted 4-3 in favor of allowing the variance. This will now go before the village board. Commissioner Umlauf adds, I hope you will do all you can do within the first 3 years to preserve the trees. Whalen states I have my own arborist and I intend to do significant pruning and will hire a company to fertilize post construction. I have done this before.

Commissioner Daly thanks Whalen for being a good steward for saving trees. Chairman Truitt thanks Whalen and adds this is everything we hope for as a commission. Overall saving the trees is better for the environment and for storm water management. I will write up a statement of support and give it to Trustee Christiansen to bring before the board. The EC thanks Whalen.

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT – No report

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT – Hubsky reports Glen Ellyn received the Tree City U.S.A. award for the 38th year in a row. Glen Ellyn also received the Tree City U.S.A Growth award for 2021. This is a higher level award. Max Brown is our new forester. I will invite him to attend one of the EC meetings. We also have a new communications coordinator, Grant Paplauskas; I will also invite him to attend an EC meeting.

VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT – No report

VIII. VILLAGE TOPICS

1. VGE Lighting Code– Staff Liaison Hubsky reports the village code covers everything that is not residential. The EC should figure out what Dark Skies means to the commission. The village lighting is dark sky compliant with LEDs. The only area that does not have LED lighting is the north corridor of Roosevelt road which will be converted in the next 2-3 years. If you feel something is missing in the code you can go to the board with a recommendation to amend the code. He adds you could also see what other communities are doing. Chairman Truitt adds education is important to bring awareness. Commissioner Swanson will be meeting with Kreuzer and once a redline is put together, we will review it with the commission.

IX. WORKSHOP TOPICS

1. Spring Newsletter – Commissioner Casazza reports that she worked with Staff Liaison Hubsky and Renae Frigo on the GE initiatives that can be celebrated. She shares GE accomplishments and areas of improvement 2021 document with the EC. She asks the EC to review this document and submit their feedback by noon on

Friday.

2. 2022 Event Calendar – Chairman Truitt reports we have events scheduled in April with the library and the Park District as well as our recycling extravaganza on April 30. We could also consider doing a garden/yard tour in the summer and then that would take us to the fall.

Recycling Extravaganza – Chairman Truitt reports that Scarce is unable to make this date. Do we want to change the date? Commissioner Abeln states vendors have not been contacted for this event. We still need to confirm with them as well as submit the application for a permit for this event. The EC discusses the potential dates for the event and decide on either April 30 or May 14. Commissioner Kwiatkowski volunteers to help Commissioner Abeln contact vendors. She will send out the initial email.

Commissioner Casazza adds Scarce has asked if GE would offer to collect smoke detectors. There is radioactive material contained in the smoke detectors and should not be disposed into the landfill. GE would have to sponsor this collection because there is a cost to dispose of them (approx. \$8/each). Commissioner Casazza will compile a budget request and will bring it to the next EC meeting. Chairman Truitt will add the budget request to next month's agenda.

Commissioner Daly adds we also have the May 1 composting event. I spoke with Midwest Compost and they would still like to proceed with this event. Chairman Truitt adds we will have to follow-up with Renee Frigo at the Park District to see where the compost could be delivered.

3. Monarch Pledge – Commissioner Umlauf reports she spoke with Loni Morris and if the village signs the Monarch Pledge she asks to have a contact at the village that she can give updates to. The pledge states the village would increase and improve available habitat for monarch butterflies and other native pollinators through the following actions:

- Improve and increase plantings of milkweed and native pollinator plants on Village lands.
- Identify locations where native milkweed and nectar plants can be newly planted or incorporated into existing plantings.
- Create at least one Monarch Waystation that meets Monarch Watch certification criteria.
- Install signage near Monarch-friendly plantings to provide educational facts about Monarch butterflies, other native pollinators, and their habitat in order to increase public awareness and education.
- Protect pollinators by limiting the use of pesticides on village owned land.

Commissioner Swanson suggests the commission further review the pledge. Chairman Truitt asks if this pledge is an intention. Commissioner Umlauf replies yes, this is an intention. This is encouragement and information, but I understand having further discussions to make sure we can adhere to this pledge. Staff Liaison Hubsky suggests reviewing this with Max Brown. If this goes before the board with a recommendation, getting village staff's support would help get this approved.

4. Electric Vehicle Grant Opportunities - Chairman Truitt states there is growing grant funding opportunities for increasing the public demand for more charging

stations on new developments. Is there a way the commission can help do research pursuing these grants; or is there someone in the village that is already doing this. Hubsy states he will find out. He adds if the EC is aware of smaller grant opportunities and would like to pursue those that would be good.

Chairman Truitt asks Staff Liaison Hubsy about electric aggregation, stating that the EC made a recommendation on this last year and if this needs to be done again this year. Staff Liaison Hubsy will look into this and will let the EC know.

X. Next Meeting & Adjournment

A. The next EC meeting - March 15, 2022.

B. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Chairman Truitt seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Hubsy