

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 15, 2022

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: November 15, 2022
Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:27 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Present
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
Karin Daly	Commissioner	Present
Joe Gadomski	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Steve Swanson	Commissioner	Present
Jennifer E. Umlauf	Commissioner	Present
Ben English	Student Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
John Hubsy	Assistant Public Works Director	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee	
Mark Franz	Village Manager	
Mark Senak	Village Board President	
PUBLIC		
Steve Johnson	Friends of East Branch River Trail	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The **November 15, 2022** Joint Special Meeting of the Environmental Commission & Village Board was called to order by Chairman Truitt at **7:00 PM** at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

III. DISCUSSION WITH VILLAGE BOARD –

A. Commission Priorities, Future Meeting Format and Communications - Chairman Truitt welcomes Village President Senak and Village Manager Franz. Truitt states this evening we would like to have a discussion on the future scope and focus of the commission going forward. The sustainability initiative document has generated a number of questions. We would like to collaborate with the village staff, board and commission and go through our initiatives and decide collectively which initiatives to

move forward with. We want to be strategically aligned with the board and we don't want to work on items that are not in alignment with the board. Commissioner Swanson states the EC has duties spelled out in the code on what our role as a commission should be. The code is our starting point.

Chairman Truitt states we have discussed how to move forward with our initiatives. One approach is over the next two meetings the commission we would do research and bring ideas forward. Then we would come up with our 3-5 recommendations and bring them to the board and the board can prioritize our recommendations.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski asks do we agree the code is still valid and should we operate under it.

Village President Senak states yes, that is the code and that should be followed and you need to follow it. You cannot lose sight of the objectives written.

Chairman Truitt states in the spirit of the code we have been following it. We are an advisory commission.

Student Commissioner English states since I have been on the board we have done events and education. We wanted to breakout of that and do Dark Skies. We have received push back from the village board on that initiative. We need to know what our role is.

Village President Senak states right now you have a village board that is the most receptive to this commission.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski states then why not set goals and benchmarks now as a measure to where we are going.

Commissioner Casazza states there is a lot we can do and the commission is uniquely positioned to work with the village board, businesses and residents. It's our responsibility to work on the bigger opportunities.

Commissioner Umlauf states this has been an ongoing issue of how to prioritize initiatives and more forward. We've tried different processes over the years.

Chairman Truitt adds we want to work on initiatives that are interesting and meaningful.

Commissioner Abeln states we've had initiatives in the past and we had a hard time moving them along. Everyone has their passions and now is the time to strike while the iron is hot.

Commissioner Gadowski states the approach of having a few initiatives approved by the board would be efficient. There are a lot of things we can do on a personal local level. I am more about education being a good start.

Student Commissioner English states education events are not futile. But we have done many of our initiatives for a long time over and over again. We need to do other things. We need communication between the board and other commissions on what we are able to do.

Village President Senak states flow of communication should go both ways. We can receive initiatives from you and the village board will provide you with feedback. We need a good balance. The ultimate goal is to make the lives of Glen Ellyn residents better. This is what will attract new residents and future generations to Glen Ellyn.

Chairman Truitt asks how our initiatives would be presented to the board. Senak states you can put them in writing or you can present them to the board. We can add you to the agenda. You will receive clear direction back from the board.

Chairman Truitt states we will have a structured timeline for our meetings going forward. We will use the majority of our meetings for our big initiatives when setting our agenda.

Village President Senak states we want you to push and challenge the board. We want to hear what this commission thinks. Senak adds, the chairperson of this commission, Chairman Truitt, is one of the best chairs we have. Work with her. She is very well respected at the board level. The board was instrumental in selecting her.

Chairman Truitt thanks Village President Senak and Village Manager Franz for attending this commission meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 18, 2022 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Swanson motions to defer minute approval to next month; Commissioner Casazza seconds the motion.

MOVE TO DEFER APPROVAL OF THE 10/18/2022 MINUTES TO NEXT MONTH

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Swanson

SECONDER: Commissioner Casazza

AYES: 8

Nays: Commissioner Daly

V. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Trustee Liaison Report: Trustee Christiansen reports the village board approved the first reading of the tax levy of 4.9% property tax increase. That would equate to an increase of thirty five dollars on a \$500,000 home. A proclamation was made for Native American Heritage month.

B. Staff Liaison Report – Staff Liaison Hubsy reports Main Street is still closed. They will be finishing up the walkway tomorrow and then the roadway will reopen. Contractors are getting the tree lights up. We still have some staff openings in Public

Works and the Village. We are hoping to have those positions filled next year.

ERBT Environmental Impact Review: Chairman Truitt reports we have been asked to do a rebuttal to the proposed route of EBRT. Steve Johnson states he is from Friends of EBRT which is an advocacy and advisory organization. This is a county led project and village engineer Daubert has been involved in the steering committee meetings. There has been a preliminary study conducted but it has not gone to Phase 1. Decisions have not been made. There currently is no funding to move this along. It would be premature to evaluate. The county will not make a decision without the village's buy in. Commissioner Swanson adds if nothing has been formulated yet, there is nothing for the commission to evaluate.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Events & Education Recap – Recycling Mini/Pumpkin smash, America Recycles S/M Campaign, STROLL November/December Articles: Chairman Truitt congratulates Commissioners Casazza and Daly for their work on the Recycling Mini event. There were 72 cars. We collected 415 lbs. of textiles, 138 lbs. of batteries, 175 cans of paint, 52 aerosol cans and 750 pumpkins were collected. It was a successful event. Scare and Flat Can has informed us that anytime we have a recycling event we need to report to the county what was collected.

Chairman Truitt reports we can start submitting articles for STROLL. We can submit an article in December on Dark Skies and Energy Efficiency. She asks the EC if someone would like to volunteer to write the article. Commissioner Swanson volunteers to put together an article and will reach out to Adam Kreuzer to assist in this effort. Truitt adds the article is due December 5.

VII. NEW BUSINESSNG

A. *Recycling Initiatives* – Central Business District Commercial Recycling for Cardboard Boxes - Chairman Truitt reports the CBD would like to start recycling cardboard. She asks the EC if anyone is interested in working with the Downtown Alliance on this initiative. Commissioner Casazza states she is interested in working on this. Truitt states she will share the information with her so she can spearhead this with the CBD businesses.

VIII. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting – December 13, 2022. Chairman Truitt states please come with some ideas and research. At the January meeting Emily Rodman will attend to facilitate our strategic planning session.
- B. Chairman Truitt motions and Commissioner Swanson seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Hubsy