

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 18, 2022

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: October 18, 2022
Called to Order: 7:03 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:31 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
Karin Daly	Commissioner	Present
Joe Gadomski	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Steve Swanson	Commissioner	Present
Jennifer E. Umlauf	Commissioner	Absent
Ben English	Student Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
John Hubsky	Assistant Public Works Director	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee	
Chris Gutman	Glen Ellyn Park District	
PUBLIC		
Ashley Staat	Commissioner Candidate	
Peter Hagerty	GE Resident 941 Glenbard Road	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The **October 18, 2022** regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at **7:03 PM** at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Peter Hagerty, a resident of Glen Ellyn, states he is seeking the help of the EC regarding the East Branch DuPage River Trail. According to the resident “The plan is to remove the parkway trees on the streets of Sunnybrook Road and Glenbard Road. The community would rather the trees not be removed. There are alternative routes for the trail. The trees offer much to the community. We feel that our opinions are not being heard. Glen Ellyn is not speaking out against this plan for the trail. The trees should override the bike path. There are alternate routes.”

Commissioner Daly states the county is spearheading this project and a preferred

path has not yet been chosen. The county is doing a study and there is no plan to remove trees at this time. They are investigating all options. I can provide you with a contact at the county for you to get in touch with.

Chairman Truitt adds now is the time to determine the impact all routes would have and provide input.

Commissioner Swanson asks how many trees would get cut down.

Hagerty states there are several hundred trees.

Chairman Truitt states we have been asked to review options and the environmental impact of the options. She thanks Haggerty for coming in.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chairman Truitt welcomes new guest Commissioner Ashley Staat. Staat states she is an environmental resources coordinator at the Glenbard Waste Water Authority. She also runs the energy committee at the plant and is also starting a sustainability committee to support wildlife. She has a degree in environmental policy from Denver University and a Masters from Aurora University. She adds the Glenbard Waste Water plant would like to work with the Environmental Commission.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Swanson motions and Commissioner Daly seconds the motion to approve the minutes from September 20, 2022.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 9/20/2022

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Swanson

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

AYES: 7

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT – Trustee Christiansen reports the village board had a workshop last night reviewing the budget. This is the time for the commission to think about its budget for next year. The comprehensive plan should be completed by the end of the year. The construction work on Park Blvd is ongoing and should be completed mid-November

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT – Staff Liaison Hubsky reports Park Blvd is behind schedule as well as Sawyer, Winsor and Chesterfield due to supply issues and the strike. Surface is going down in the CBD Streetscape. Phase 2 & 3 will start up in February. The last of the trees were planted on Duane Street. The village approved the holiday lights contract which will be wrapped instead of draped. The trees on the north side of the tracks will come down next year. NIMEC Community Solar will go to the board for approval. The ongoing water/sewer rate study was brought to the finance committee last Friday. There is a 2000 gallon minimum and a fixed component based on meter size. This will help fund the project. The village put out a lead water line survey to residents. An annual inventory is due in April 2023 and

again in 2024. If the line is unknown, the village will assume it is a lead service line. Staff is looking at completing the inventory and will have 15 years to remove and replace lead service lines. This is an unfunded mandate. There is no cost share program at this time. The village will remove the lead service line on village property. Please see the village website for more information.

VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT – Park District Liaison Gutmann reports the Park District's tree and plant sale sold 370 plants. Thank you to all who helped. Oaktober was a big success. Thanks to Commissioners Casazza and Daly for their help. The public was really interested in this event. We had 285 attendees. We also planted over 200 acorns. We just concluded 7 weeks of birdwatching hikes. Pumpkin smash is on November 5. Woody invasive removal will continue over the next 5 months. We are going to be really aggressive with the clearing of buckthorn.

VIII. NEW BUSINESSNG TOPICS

A. Policy, Ordinance, and Code Recommendations to the Village Board – Chairman Truitt reports John Hubsy and I spoke with the village administration on how we can move forward with the ordinances. We need to look at these and bring before the board in February or March with an outline on what the EC is working on. If the board decides to go forward they will direct staff to do so. Some of the EC's big initiatives will need to have staff dedicated to them. On those that are not approved by the board, the EC can still educate the community. Now is the time to bring the initiatives before the board because it is budget season. On Monday John, Kelli and myself will have a short presentation to the board on the initiatives with the objective of giving direction for the larger meeting in February.

Commission Swanson adds our job on this commission is to do research and give recommendations to the board. Perhaps we need to prioritize our initiatives.

Trustee Christiansen adds we want to do this to get everyone on the same page and be most efficient. This commission has done a lot good work and you all should be proud.

Commissioner Casazza adds I appreciate that. However, the environment is in crisis, it is my responsibility as a commissioner to work on serious environmental issues. We may have to push to get these important initiatives through. We need to think about these big initiatives. There is a cost not to do them.

B. Recycling Resources Initiatives – Chairman Truitt asks the EC if they still want to do mini recycling events throughout the year. Commissioner Casazza has found vendor who will collect Styrofoam and batteries. The idea is to do 3-4 recycling events a year. These events could be offered in November, January or February/March. We could partner with the Park District and offer the first mini on November 5 at the Pumpkin Smash event from 9:00-11:00. The Recycling Extravaganza is tentatively scheduled for April 29. Commissioner Kwiatkowski is reaching out to vendors to see if they are available to participate. If we decide to do paper shredding the cost will be \$1500.

C. Events & Education Initiatives

1. 2023 Events and EC Meeting Dates – Chairman Truitt asks the EC if there are any events we would like Grant to promote besides the recycling events.

Commissioner Casazza adds the *Keep it Under Wraps* event at the library on December 17 12:00-4:00. There will be holiday sustainable gift wrap for residents to use or donate.

Chairman Truitt asks the EC if the 3rd Tuesday of the month for our EC meetings still works for next year. We will also likely have fewer meetings in the summer possibly dropping our July meeting. The EC agrees to the 3rd Tuesday of the month for the meetings.

D. Budget Review: 2022 Actuals and 2023 Forecast – Chairman Truitt reports each year we have invested \$500 with the Conservation Foundation. Does the EC still support doing this? The EC states yes. The other items we have in our budget are events, print resources, professional development fees, conferences and seminars for a total budget of 5,000-6,000. Chairman Truitt states if there are any additional needs for our budget, please let us know soon.

IX. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting – November 15, 2022. Chairman Truitt adds for any agenda items for our next meeting please send them to me or John by November 7.
- B. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Commissioner Godomski seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Hubsy