

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

December 13, 2022

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: December 13, 2022
Called to Order: 7:07 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:16 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present/Absent

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Present
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
Karin Daly	Commissioner	Present
Joe Gadomski	Commissioner	Absent
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Steve Swanson	Commissioner	Absent
Jennifer E. Umlauf	Commissioner	Present
Ben English	Student Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
John Hubsy	Assistant Public Works Director	
PUBLIC		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The December 13, 2022 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at 7:07pm at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

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

1. Edits for Oct. 18th, 2022, Meeting
 - i. Commissioner Daly has concerns that the speaker from the public comment section of the October meeting is reflected on the record in the minutes that it appears the comment is stated as fact. Liaison Hubsy stated that the public comment cannot be altered, but we can change so that the individual's comments to appear in quote.

- ii. Proposed that the October minutes section II, public comment change to - “the resident states: “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.”
 - iii. Propose that section III announcements change “Chairman Truitt welcomes new guest Commissioner Ashley Staat” to “Chairman Truitt welcomes perspective Commissioner Ashley Staat”
- 2. Edits for Nov. 15, 2022 Meeting
 - i. Commissioner Kwiatkowski notes that the public participation is not accurately reflected as Peter Hagerty was from the Oct meeting. Instead the public participation was from resident Steve Johnson. His comments are reflected further in the meeting minutes under the time of the meeting which he spoke. The commission agrees it is fine to leave his comments as they presently are written into the minutes.
- 3. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Commissioner Abeln seconds the motion to approve the minutes from October 18, 2022 and November 15, 2022.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM X/XX/XXXX

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

SECONDER: Commissioner Abeln

AYES: # 7

IV. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT – Trustee Christiansen absent

V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT – Liaison Hubsky

- 1. 800 cubic yards of leaf litter taken for organic compost through fall street sweeping, Groot does the leaf litter pickup for residents
- 2. John can share the waste, recycling and composting stats for the Village for 2022 in February
- 3. Public Works is looking for additional recycling options for textiles, batteries and aerosol cans. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asks if the department keeps stats on what is recycled. John said not currently but an intern might be looking. Possibly pursuing work with flat can.

Christy indicates that some work on this was done last year. If the statistics are tracked, it would be a great way for the Village to showcase the good work they are doing already. Commissioner Kwiatkowski says she is impressed with the initiative by Public Works and agrees we should inform residents about this progress. It is about saying what we are doing now as well as tracking and showing progress and growth for the future.

VI. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT – Provided by Liaison Hubsy on behalf of Chris Guttman

1. Manor woods clearing of invasive buckthorn; native trees were left.
2. Ackerman Woods also cleared with help from school and volunteer groups.
3. Village gardens being amended with organic compost

VII. Presentations – Commissioner recommendations for future EC efforts (see attached PDF document for reference prepared by Chair Truitt)

1. Chairperson Truitt explains that she has organized the output by GRC2 section. Steve wants to pursue the dark sky guidelines and a climate resiliency plan. Joe provided a list of items from the GRC2. The commissioners who are here this evening can share more information on what they submitted. She summarizes that between what was submitted there were many similarities and overlaps. Land, Waste & Recycling, Climate are the big 3.

Village Liaison Hubsy states that while the commission has a lot of ideas, between when we generate /narrow down ideas and go to the board, he needs more information for what implications items would have for staff and other commissions. The Board will be unwilling to commit staff to an idea only. And the EC needs to understand that certain ideas will not be pursued if they are too much for staff.

Commissioner Kwiatkowsky states she understood this meeting as presenting to the Board of what things are short, long, medium term and for the EC to come up with a plan on how to accomplish certain things.

Commissioner Abeln states that he understood that this is where everyone would share exactly what they want and possibly narrow down. Village Liaison Hubsy states that President Senak asked the EC to come forward with what they most want to work on and present to the board.

Commissioner Daly states that she approached as a good brainstorm. For example GE has some of the worse emissions in the area. Chairperson Truitt states that she has ideas to work with other groups but they cannot start alone, we have to inspire.

Commissioner Kwiatkowsky states that the village needs to set priorities; Village Liaison Hubsy states that this is to determine what and how you will bring to the board so the board approves and then directs staff. If you come to the board with a plan without understanding of how it impacts staff, it will not be successful.

Commissioner Kwiatkowsky indicates that a sustainability plan is needed and it has to include metrics. A goal without a plan is a wish. Chairperson Truitt states that previous commissions focused too much on long term and things didn't move forward. Therefore the Commission focused more on things that we could accomplish in the short term, which is how we got to the strategic alignment document from 2018.

Commissioner Casazza states that the previous strategic alignment document is still valid. The categories such as development, financial sustainability, economic development, are all things that the Board and in fact all the other commissions are working towards for Glen Ellyn. Perhaps just

the action steps need to be updated with some of the new actions we identify through this exercise. But the Board will likely not want to see initiatives that do not work towards those categories.

Chairperson Truitt states that there are multiple lenses - municipal, resident and business lenses for the EC to look at for evaluating actions.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski expresses her proposal to have specific action items with respect to the village goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Chairperson Truitt asks how could we measure this information. We can look at what other communities are doing in this area.

Chairperson Truitt asks Commissioner Kwiatkowski to send Glen Ellyn emissions information to the group before the January meeting.*

Commissioner Abeln asks Commissioner English what his impression was from the last meeting.

Commissioner English said to come with ideas about what we wanted to do in the future.

Commissioner Abeln indicates that his priority is a leaf blower ban.

Commissioner Daly states Reduce Carbon Emissions is her top one which can encompass multiple steps

Chairperson Truitt indicates that we can consolidate/make some of these ideas more clear. For example we can take the main topics and we divide into smaller working groups.

Chairperson Truitt asks the group to go around and say what they care about.

Commissioner Abeln says leaf blower and would work on dark sky initiative with Steve.

Commissioner English states that we should continually bring ideas to the board. We can engage the community more with land and parks and get them more interested in that, create an initiative to bring people to the green spaces. Chairperson Truitt says that is a great idea and will help people get to know things, when you have more awareness about spaces you care more about conserving them. Commissioner English asks can we engage or survey the community to express what they are most concerned about from an environmental standpoint. Chairperson Truitt states that Kelli has been a great advocate for the EC.

Commissioner Casazza comments that her top 3 include leaf blower ban since it was brought forth by residents. Also Styrofoam ban as this is going to be pursued as a topic in the Illinois legislature next year. We can help local businesses start to evaluate alternatives. Styrene is a probable carcinogen according to the EPA and we do not want residents eating out of it. Most people do not like Styrofoam and this would be less controversial than a plastic bag ban. It is a step in the direction of reducing certain single use plastics. Commissioner Umlauf and Chairperson Truitt ask if the groups advocating for Styrofoam bans have a preferred alternative. Commissioner Casazza is unsure. **Casazza to Ask the CPR and reuse group for alternatives to Styrofoam take out packaging.** Chairperson Truitt indicates we could try to do a bulk purchase for reusable containers

for central business district. Commissioner Casazza is also interested in a solar project on village property. Commissioner Abeln states there won't be much incentive to do this because the Village gets electricity for free from ComEd and it would require rewriting the franchise agreement. Liaison Hubsy agrees. Last idea Commissioner Casazza wants to pursue is a shuttle bus from downtown to the Warhol exhibit at COD this summer. Liaison Hubsy indicates that this was discussed at length for Friday exhibit and ultimately was not pursued. People are driving to the exhibit not coming from the train. Commissioner Casazza suggests that since there is no transportation from the train to COD that perhaps this was the reason people had to drive.

Commissioner Casazza asks if John can send the shuttle bus information from Frida exhibit; she can pursue outside of this initiatives discussion.

Commissioner Daly states that included in her top 3 are process, we need a report card for the Village. Need a task force to work on certain things. 2nd - reduction of emissions plan, including a number of steps under that that the village gets behind. 3rd - land use - stewardship, native plants, legacy trees.

Commissioner Kwiatkowsky agrees about process for how the commission works. Need a plan with measurable attainable results and a report card. 2nd reducing emissions/ greenhouse gases. It touches a lot of areas.

Commissioner Daly also adds to pursue a downtown grocery store. Village Liaison Hubsy indicated that it is difficult because it is so expensive and there isn't enough space.

Chairperson Truitt states her priorities for the EC are to set the example for residents and businesses to follow. Sustainable community where the community values sustainability and will opt in to sustainable choices: climate resilience, healthy residents and economy and stewardship of resources. Stormwater is a potential area; how do we get residents to use greenspace? Promote, educate and recognize are ways to achieve this.

Commissioner Umlauf states her priorities include gas powered blowers, but more from the education side. Likes Ben's idea to find out where residents think we are behind. Diverting waste from landfills and helping to create beautiful landscapes. Reminder that long term plans have to accommodate commissioners as they come on and off the commission.

VIII. Ongoing Initiatives

1. Stroll article for Commissioner January - Adam Kreuzer submitted a dark sky article. February - sustainable landscaping based on chapter 11 of nature's best hope. March article - recycling. EC please think about how we want to set up this March recycling article for Stroll. Perhaps a partner - destination organization - to help organize areas or set up a recycling space in your house. Commissioner Daly reminds that if we partner with an organization, we need to be careful of not appearing to endorse that business.
2. One Earth film festival - Chairperson Truitt was already contacted by the organizer asking if we would sponsor. Chairperson Truitt said only if a film can be shown locally and we also want to see the list of films first. She will follow up with the commission with more info on the one earth film festival when she receives it.

3. Recycling mini - 1/28 or 2/4 require volunteers. Commissioners agree to split into 2 shifts for volunteers for this event. **Commissioner Casazza will confirm Maryknoll space with Park District and then revert back to Flat Can and the EC on the mini recycling date.**
4. Cardboard recycling for downtown businesses - Groot can place a dumpster and lock it. A fee would be charged but the cost to businesses is net neutral since they pay for waste hauling anyway. Combined resources is another company we could use for this. They would pay for the recycling. It would be a drop off point located in the downtown so any participating business could use it. 97% of the cardboard they collect is recycled. They can also take pallets and in the future, they may have the ability to pay back businesses for the cardboard they collect. Unfortunately they haven't responded, so this is still in process. **Chairperson Truitt to continue follow up with Consolidated and keep the commission informed.**
5. Recycling extravaganza - April 29
 - i. Commissioner Kwiatkowski indicates that the new fluorescent bulb recycling vendor has increased costs of 17% over the old vendor. Do we want to subsidize? Discussion ensues that the 2022 event had subsidized lightbulbs because otherwise it required a volunteer to collect change for the bulbs. New vendor has the ability to collect the fee onsite. Commission agrees to the new vendor and fee to be paid by residents bringing the bulbs rather than the village.
 - ii. Commissioner Kwiatkowski also indicates that Earth Paint has a grant for this year which will provide for reduced paint recycling costs. Therefore it is less expensive to use Earth paint than Flat Can. Flat can has indicated they do not want to participate in events where Earth Paint is also collecting the same materials. Chairperson Truitt indicates we don't want to be in the middle of this; we can invite them both and see what they say. Commissioner Casazza indicates that the goal is for residents to recycle paint and they will do more of that if the cost is lower, so we can simply explain that to Flat Can and say that we would still like to work with them for the mini events. **Commissioner Kwiatkowski will reply back to both paint vendors.**

IX. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting – January 31, 2023.
- B. Commissioner Casazza motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Submitted by Jacquelyn Casazza, Commissioner

Reviewed by Liaison Hubsy