

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 18, 2023

Board or Environmental
Commission:
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: April 18, 2023
Called to 7:00 p.m.
Order:
Adjourned: 9:47 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

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	Present
Jennifer E. Umlauf	Commissioner	Present
Ben English	Student Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
John Hubsky	Assistant Public Works Director	
Gary Fasules	Village Trustee	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
PUBLIC		
Dennis Terdy	233 Forest Avenue Glen Ellyn	
Jim Kleinwachter	Conservation Foundation	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 18, 2023 meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Truitt at 7:00 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Dennis Terdy, GE resident, states last year we presented a proposal on leaf blowers. We were told we would hear from this commission by December. It has been 8 months and we have not heard anything. Did we participate in the correct process? What is the next step? Commissioner Abeln apologizes and states it was my responsibility to get back to you and I dropped the ball. Chairperson Truitt states we did research and I too should have followed up. I spoke with Trustee Christiansen and the Village is aware of the proposal. Trustee Fasules states it is on the list to bring before the Village Board, but I do not know when it will be scheduled. Chairperson Truitt states awareness has been brought forward. Terdy states I am expressing my frustration. Infiniti is not acceptable. I ask to please work on this. Trustee Fasules states this has to go through the process. The best thing to do is call

me and Chairperson Truitt to see if we can move this through. Staff Liaison Hubsy states you can attend a Village Board meeting to bring it to their attention during the Public comment.

1. Guest Speaker – Conservation Foundation – Chairperson Truitt reports Jim Kleinwachter from the Conservation Foundation is here to review the proposal and partnership with the EC regarding Sustainable Yards (see attached proposal). Kleinwachter states anything you can do to educate and get people to do more is a good thing. Those individuals who are interested in participating will register their home with the Conservation Foundation. If a resident uses mosquito sprays they would be ineligible. Truitt adds we would like to create a registry/certification program and partner with the Conservation Foundation. Kleinwachter adds we currently have 20 Glen Ellyn residents that are certified with the Conservation Foundation. Regarding No Mow May we need to educate and craft the right messaging and get it out to the residents. We could do a presentation and have a Q&A session either live or recorded. He adds you could have a cash incentive to encourage participation. I can share with the EC the number of participants that are currently in the process of gaining certification in Glen Ellyn. Commissioner Casazza adds our proposed timing is for residents to sign up by June 30 and certify by September 30. Could there be a process in place with the Conservation Foundation regarding the reimbursement of cash incentives up to a maximum and the Conservation Foundation would bill the Village. Truitt adds we could offer an incentive of up to \$25 for yard certification and \$50 for rain barrels base on a set budget.

Staff Liaison Hubsy states you need to present a proposal to the Village. The Village would approve the proposal and budget. Trustee Fasules states is this to change people's behavior or increase certifications. Kleinwachter states the goal would be awareness and taking steps in the right direction. Fasules states you need to educate, perhaps in the newsletter. Truitt adds we have an article coming up on May 3. This program would be a good topic. She adds the overall budget for the program could be \$2500-\$5000 reaching a maximum of 150 residents at \$25-\$50 benefit per family. Hubsy adds a one-time reimbursement with the Conservation Foundation would be best. Kleinwachter adds you will want to add a bulleted list of what you want the residents to do, so I can get them to do it. A list of behaviors most important to the EC.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 21, 2023 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions to approve the minutes; Commissioner Umlauf seconds the motion.

MOVE TO APPROVAL MINUTES FROM 3/21/2023 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

SECONDER: Commissioner Umlauf

IV. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Trustee Liaison Report: Trustee Fasules reports the Village Board is in the process of reviewing and negotiating proposals on the Roosevelt Road property and the U.S. Bank property. We completed the water/sewer rate study and rates will be changing. We are working with the developers of 411 N. Main Street.

B. Staff Liaison Report – Staff Liaison Hubsy reports summer events will likely take place at COD. We did the water/sewer rate study and we are looking at a rate change January 1. We haven't had a rate change since 2018. The variable rate will be standard. The proposal will go before the board next month for approval. Tap House submitted plans and they are approved. They did some work that wasn't approved so the Village is working through that. Chairperson Truitt states there are many questions on trees and high crime lighting. How can we help get the messages out? Can we add signage on the streets or have a QR code with additional information. Staff Liaison Hubsy will speak with Meredith Hannah about this. Hubsy states we will be planting 290 trees this spring and an additional 150 in the fall. There was a comment on small trees being planted. We plant the smaller trees in places where we have overhead wires. We plant for diversity. Panfish Park - The Village Links procured a \$10,000 grant for planting trees. The Park District also obtained 20 trees from the Morton Arboretum. They will decide on Friday where the trees will be planted. We are having issues with the Apex garage. We are getting the owner to adjust and correct the defects. Timeline of completion to be determined.

C. Chairperson Report – Chairperson Truitt states I would like to thank Commissioner Casazza and the League of Women Voters on their presentation on plastics. It was compelling and a great idea generation and collaboration. On Wednesday there were almost 200 attendees, it was a great turnout. Truitt adds, I would also like to thank Commissioners Casazza and Umlauf for their contribution to the newsletter.

V. Old Business

1. Strategic Planning Priorities – Chairperson Truitt states in terms of focus and engagement we want to work on Land and Waste. We will have our resident certification program with a budget of \$5,000; Curbside Compost with a budget of \$2,500. We would like to have a proposal in May. May 7 is composting awareness week and we also would like to have compost pickup on May 7. If the park district agrees we will move this to May 7 and we will want to promote and incentivize compost pickup. Trustee Fasules states when the board did our refuse contract, compost was a voluntary program. Rates have been set. Commissioner Casazza states there is no incentive to compost. Hubsy states regarding the proposal on compost, we can work with finance on this to help figure out the best way to incentivize composting. Hubsy states you could give the first 50 residents that sign up 3 months free as an incentive.

Chairperson Truitt asks if there was any feedback on the two proposed bike events to support and encourage mobility. Hubsy states if you want to do the bike event you will need to pick new routes. Crossing Roosevelt Road is off limits and cutting across village links is not a favorable route. COD may be a good option. Truitt adds we want to encourage mobility. We could do possibly do a Biketober in October if we can

come up with new routes for the proposal. Hubsky states revise the routes and bring this forward again.

Chairperson Truitt asks the EC if they would be interested in doing a Monarch Festival. This event would be symbol of our sustainability support and we could partner with the Downtown Alliance and other partners. The EC discusses the event and does not think their focus should be on event planning. Chairperson Truitt adds this would be a great opportunity to educate. Trustee Fasules states see if Grant can do a separate EC newsletter once a month to communicate your important content to the residents.

Sustainability Plan 2023 Proposal – Commissioner Kwiatkowski reports we need to have a sustainability plan that is an outline for the community to measure and follow for the next 2-5 years. Many communities are hiring consulting firms to help develop these plans. Chairperson Truitt and I interviewed the consulting firm that developed the Skokie Sustainability Plan. We were both impressed with the firm's knowledge, experience and process. We learned that the consulting firm will handle much of the work so staff does not have to. The quote to hire the consulting firm is \$40,000. They will facilitate everything. Commissioner Kwiatkowski shared the proposal with the EC (see attached). Chairperson Truitt adds there are four baseline assessments with data analytics that they start with and the output would be high level strategic goals across ten categories. Commissioner Kwiatkowski states our current work and initiatives would roll up into those strategic goals. Staff Liaison Hubsky states the EC is scheduled to attend the May 15 Village Board Workshop. This is something you could discuss with the board and share the proposal.

VI. Review of Strategic Initiatives for Future Village Board Workshop

Chairperson Truitt states next steps are to prepare a presentation on the following topics for the May 15 Village Workshop:

1. Compost Initiative - \$2,500 budget
2. Sustainability Certification - \$5,000 budget
3. Consultant for a baseline assessment - \$5,000-\$6,000 budget
4. EC newsletter
5. Dark Sky – there seems to be an appetite from the board on this.

(recommendation of an ordinance update)Spring Newsletter students getting involved in the Environmental Commission.

VII. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Recycling Extravaganza – Commissioner Kwiatkowski reports we have enough volunteers for the event. Commissioner English sent a request to the Eco club and will also mention it at the next meeting.

VII Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Commissioner Swanson motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 pm.

The next EC meeting – Regular meeting May 16 canceled, special meeting May 23, 2023

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Hubsy