

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 21, 202

Board or Environmental
Commission:
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: March 21, 2023
Called to 7:05 p.m.
Order:
Adjourned: 9:50 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	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee	
Chris Gutman	Glen Ellyn Park District	
PUBLIC		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The **March 21,** 2023 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at **7:05 PM** at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

Tristan Schilling 655 Duane Street
Angelina Yorgova 105 Andover Drive
Donna Jean Simon, incoming board trustee

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 28, 2023, MEETING –

1. Commissioner Casazza motions to approve the minutes; Commissioner Umluaf seconds the motion.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 2/28/2023

RESULT: submitted changes to the February minutes ahead of the meeting and read these aloud:

The record should reflect my and Jennifer's comments to advocate for a sustainability section in the Comprehensive Plan. "Commissioner Casazza states that there is an understanding that not all comments submitted from the EC can make it into the Comprehensive Plan, but strongly requests that an overall sustainability goal with 3-5 objectives be included." "Commissioner Umlauf adds that including this shows sustainability is a priority for the Village."

MOVER: Commissioner Casazza

SECONDER: Commissioner Umluaf

Amendments to the draft meeting minutes

IV. Initiatives -

Chairperson Truitt discusses the categories for Landfill Reduction. 1. Keeping usable resources out of the landfill, i.e., recycling

V. Ongoing Initiatives -

Commissioner English states he will write an article for the April 3 Enviro News issue of "Stroll" magazine on students getting involved in the Environmental Commission.

Commissioner Casazza states she will write an article for March the March "Stroll" magazine on the topic of how does recycling work. This is due March 3.

VI. Commissioner Updates

Absent from the minutes is Commissioner Casazza's report on a sustainable yards incentive instead of no mow May and an exploration of a "Bike the Drive" event. Since the printed reports didn't make it into the packet, the gist of the proposals should be reflected in the minutes.

"Commissioner Casazza refers to documents sent to the EC regarding two proposed initiatives. She has done research on a potential "No Mow May" initiative to mirror what is being done in Lombard. She states that given the long term goal to encourage more native plantings and less yard maintenance overall, that she does not recommend the short term "No Mow May" initiative. Instead, Commissioner Casazza recommends a potential financial and recognition incentive to encourage residents to convert a section of their yard to native plants, shrubs or trees. Further details on this proposal will be provided in the March meeting, and feedback is welcome on the documents shared with the EC.

Commissioner Casazza further proposes exploration of an event similar to "Bike the Drive" to encourage residents to bike to school or work. This could be done in the summer where a section of road would be closed to cars for a bike event. Further research is being done with Chairperson Truitt."

Commissioner Umlauf requests that the minutes reflect our recommendation that the Village Board discontinue the use of single use water bottles and that Go Green Glen Ellyn has offered to donate reusable bottles to the Village Board. The commission votes to approve the minutes.

Abeln - abstain - Umlauf motions, Kwiatkowsky seconds, Daly, Casazza, English vote in favor

VII. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT –

1. Park District Liaison report - Chris Gutman

Chris congratulates Go Green Glen Ellyn on Volunteer of the Year for the Park District, and Chairperson Truitt recognizes Jac and Karin for being named Glen Ellyn Park District volunteers of the year. Recap of the Sport Swap - it was the most money raised ever and the most items swapped. Chris reports they removed invasives from inside the loop at Ackerman Trail. Signage is being replaced at the bee hotel in Churchill. Owls did not return to Lake Ellyn. Earth week is coming up and Chairperson Truitt offers to help promote the event. Park District was a recipient of a DuPage Stormwater restoration grant of \$30,000 that will be used to manage stormwater and install plants at Churchill Park.

2. Staff report - John Hubsky

Groundbreaking for streetscape on April 10. Board voted to approve phase 2 of the train station which will impact the US Bank property. Details are still being worked out on how this will work. There is a question from Chairperson Truitt of whether the village is prepared for a train/railroad derailment. There are multiple levels of staff training and FEMA would also be involved. There are many people in this village and mutual aid agreements between Glen Ellyn and other communities. Commissioner Daly suggests that public works/the village write a blurb to share this information to residents. Village Liaison Hubsky indicates this could be done through National public works week in May and he will discuss further with staff/Grant, and that this is a good idea.

3. Trustee Christiansen is absent; Chairperson Truitt updates on items - thanks Commissioners Casazza and Umlauf for their work on the spring EnvrioNews letter. Chairperson Truitt also thanks Commissioners Casazza and English for their contributions to Stroll for the April and May issues.

VII. Old Business –

- A. Recycling extravaganza updates from Commissioner Kwiatkowsky. We have our permit and flyers but need more volunteers! Go Green can put out a request for volunteers. SCARCE needs volunteers. At least 8-10 volunteers are needed for the 4 hour time frame. Commissioner Casazza offers to create a signup genius with pre-filled slots and add that coffee, donuts and pizza will be served! Commissioner Casazza and Daly offer to create a village social media campaign for the recycling

extravaganza with eblasts of which items are being recycled - batteries, smoke detectors, free aerosol cans. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asks for a volunteer to help drive the lightbulbs back from everlite as this will save \$140 for the Village if we drive them back ourselves. Commissioner Daly is coordinating a free compost pickup at Village Green on the same day. It will be free for any residents participating in the curbside composting program or any resident who signs up on that day.

- B. One Earth Film Festival is returning with in person movies. This is an event that the EC has previously sponsored. The films are being shown online and some that are downtown. Chairperson Truitt asks for discussion on this topic. Commissioner Casazza states that she is not in favor of sponsoring the event nor promoting the event for this year due to competing priorities. She would be in favor of doing something in the future. Commissioner Umlauf states that previous OEFF attendance at COD was well attended, about 100 people. Commissioner Daly states that from a marketing perspective the \$500 is not well spent because many other organizations sponsor at the \$10,000 and \$20,000 level, so the marketing bump would not be visible. Daly would be in favor of a future event similar to the one held at the Park District 2 years ago, where a sustainable film was shown in the community. Chairperson Truitt thanks the group for the discussion and states that she will revert back to the OEFF group that we will not sponsor or promote this year, but could potentially consider for next year if we can partner with another organization such as COD or the Glen Art Theater.
- C. Staff Liaison Hubsy asks for a vote on how much of the budget to be spent for the recycling extravaganza. Chairperson Truitt asks for a vote. Casazza asks for a motion to approve a budget not to exceed \$500 for the recycling extravaganza. Umlauf seconds. Ablehn, Daly, English vote in favor. The motion carries.
- D. Ladybug release - Chairperson Truitt shares research that if the ladybug release goes forward that the EC needs to clarify that the stated purpose is as a pesticide alternative. May 6 Scarce Market or June 10 Park District Compost Workshop. Barbara will go back to ladybug group to see if there is a date which works.

VIII. New Business - EC Priorities

- 1. **Cultivating Green Infrastructure and resilient landscapes - ties back to benefits to the village such as managing stormwater.**
 - a. Volunteer Park - if we are redoing (corner of Prospect and Pennsylvania - village property) - could we budget to redo the park and remove the planters. Possibility to engage with COD. The class could do the design as an end of semester project. Would need to be professionally designed. This park could be a showcase for sustainable landscaping. Commissioner Casazza questions whether this is the appropriate location for this investment because Liaison Hubsy shares that this was originally designed as an old English garden at a cost of \$150-\$200K when it was redone, but it does need some upkeep. The earliest the Village will be doing anything is 2024.
 - b. Sustainable Yards initiative - Discussion on Casazza proposal. Village Liaison Hubsy Indicates a pilot of \$2500 would be more palatable. Suggestion that the Conservation Foundation manage a grant/amount of money that the Village

designates. Commissioner Casazza states she will revisit this with the Conservation Foundation.

- c. Monarch, Bike and Butterflies event - Chairperson Truitt shares a potential biking event on the south side of Glen Ellyn and potential routes. Hubsky states to provide a suggested route, day, time for the Bike the Boulevard potential event. Commissioner Kwiatkowski states she can work on coming up with this. Commissioner Umlauf states to do an event on exploring Glen Ellyn Greenspace.

2. Educate and Motivate Initiative

- a. Commissioner Daly speaks to a report out on some of the priorities that the EC has chosen and using the GRC as a framework, obtaining benchmark numbers and setting some goals. This is a way for us to show accountability and also market some of the things we are doing as a Village on green initiatives. Chairperson Truitt - share what we are doing and what we could do next. The next stage would be to create a sustainability plan.
- b. Commissioner Kwiatkowski shares that she did research on other communities' plans and would recommend that Glen Ellyn falls somewhere in the middle (not too general, not too detailed). Recommendation is for the Village to develop a sustainability plan for Glen Ellyn. Skokie plan was \$40,000 and very detailed. The Highland Park plan was smaller in scope and was \$35,000. Hubsky indicates that the Village is understaffed and it would be helpful to know what staff time and resources are needed. The plan could be developed in sections or steps. Without a plan, metrics, action steps and associated costs. Commissioner Daly's proposal would be a stepping stone into the sustainability plan being suggested by Commissioner Kwiatkowski.

3. Waste Reduction Initiative

- a. Commissioner English presents the overall waste reduction initiative, and Commissioner Casazza shares the compost initiative. Hubsky states to put together the proposal on the free composting program and he can put it forward.
- b. Casazza also asks about the permitting for the special events, if the village can require that events over 10,000 attendees have to have a recycling contract. Village Liaison Hubsky states he can review this with staff.
- c. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asks for an update on the cardboard recycling. Commissioner Casazza states there is no progress at this time and recommends trying a new vendor.

Tree preservation - suggestion by Chairperson Truitt and Commissioner Umlauf to build an incentive program to preserve and maintain trees; making neighbors keep residents accountable.

Sustainable landscapes - Casazza motion to devote up to \$2500 of budget towards this initiative, commissioner Daly seconds, motion carries unanimously.

Commissioner Umlauf asks for confirmed volunteers for recycling extravaganza.

Commissioner Umlauf motions to adjourn, Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds, motion carries unanimously.

A. Next Meeting & Adjournment

A. The next EC meeting – April 18, 2023. Chairman

B. Commissioner Umlauf motions to adjourn, and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds, motion carries unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

**Submitted by Jacquelyn Casazza,
Commissioner
Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Hubsy**