

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 28, 2023

Board or Environmental
Commission:
Meeting: Special
Quorum: Yes

Date: February 28, 2023
Called to 7:00 p.m.
Order:
Adjourned: 9:33 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
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	
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
Chris Gutman	Park District Liaison	
PUBLIC		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 28, 2023 Special Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Truitt at 7:00 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 31, 2023 MEETING –

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

MOVE TO APPROVAL MINUTES FROM 1/31/2023 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Casazza

SECONDER: Commissioner Swanson

IV. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Trustee Liaison Report: Trustee Christiansen reports the Village Board ratified a new four year contract with the police department. Hen Ellyn is tentatively scheduled for the April 17 Village Board workshop. We are close to finalizing the Comprehensive Plan. This is tentatively scheduled to go before the Board for final approval on April 24. 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. Chairperson Truitt asks what the process is on the comments that the EC submitted in 2021. Trustee Christiansen states we take all recommendations into consideration and the Board will make the ultimate decision.

B. Staff Liaison Report – Staff Liaison Hubsy reports Glen Ellyn will receive the Tree City Award again this year as well as the Growth Award. This year for the Arbor Day tree planting, Max Brown would like to dedicate the tree to the Environmental Commission as recognition for the work performed by this Commission. A tree species list will be shared with the EC and you can choose your top 3. The location of this tree planting will be at Panfish Park. I will let you know when the tree planting ceremony will be. The Village of Glen Ellyn also received the Gold Level Water Ambassador of the Year Award.

C. Park District Liaison Report - Staff Liaison Gutman reports the instillation of the dark sky lighting continues. All burn permits have been obtained and we are just waiting on the proper time to start. Designs for the Churchill Park and the Lenox property are coming along nicely. We continue to remove invasive plants. We are repairing trails to get ready for spring.

- V. Initiatives Discussion from January Strategic Planning Exercise – Chairperson Truitt states last month we did a prioritization exercise and decided on the following:
- 1) [Cultivate] Resilient Landscapes
 - 2) Landfill [Waste] Reduction
 - 3) Educate and Motivate
 - 4) Emission Reduction

She adds, we now need to determine key objectives for these priorities. She asks the EC what they would like to focus on. Commissioner Swanson states I think we should divide into teams and focus on specific areas. Commissioner Kwiatkowski and I have already identified key areas within heat resilience that we should be doing and reviewed some of the codes. Staff Liaison Hubsy adds with respect to the codes, the village board will be completing a review of the codes by the end of the year. When the review is completed, the EC will be invited to share its code recommendations with the board. Trustee Christiansen adds if you have material you want the board to see, I can take it and share it with them. Commissioner Swanson states, I propose Barbara and I work on the high level document of heat resilience. Chairperson Truitt adds you will need to make a case for why and include

enough detail. Commissioner Swanson states he will share the outline with the EC before the March meeting to see how it relates to the following initiatives:

- Preserve and build a tree canopy
- Promote sustainable landscapes
- Encourage resilience development
- Heat events evaluation

Chairperson Truitt discusses the categories for Landfill Reduction.

1. Keeping usable resources out of the landfill, i.e., recycling
2. Reducing food waste (composting)
3. Limit introduction of hazardous waste and reducing consumption
4. Exploring reusable containers at restaurants
5. Cost saving measures for the village if we recycle more. Chairperson Truitt asks if there is something we can do here.

Trustee Christiansen adds if we can reduce our curbside clean sweep pickup to once every three years instead of once every two years, we could save \$250,000.

Chairperson Truitt states perhaps we could do an education piece on how to reuse items instead of throwing them away. Chairperson Truitt asks the EC who would like to spearhead Landfill Reduction. Commissioners Casazza and English volunteer to work on this initiative. Commissioner Daly volunteers to work on communication aspects for both initiatives discussed this evening. Commissioner Umlauf volunteers to help with composting and reducing landfill waste and is interested in sustainable landscapes.

Chairperson Truitt adds Educate and Motivate will fall under both initiatives. She states she will reach out to Commissioners Abeln and Gadomski to see what initiatives they are interested in.

VI. ONGOING INITIATIVES

A. Spring Newsletter - Chairperson Truitt reports content deadline for the spring newsletter is March 10. Commissioner Casazza suggests the Do's and Don'ts of Recycling. Chairperson Truitt adds we could also add the flyer for our Recycling Extravaganza to the newsletter as well as post it on our website and the enews blast.

The EC discusses additional topics for Enviro News.

- Reduce pesticides and insecticides
- Reduction in lawn mowing height

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

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

VII. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Recycling Extravaganza – Commissioner Kwiatkowski reports the flyer is almost complete. Once complete we will send it to the commissioner for approval. The biggest challenge at the event will be the light bulbs and what the vendor is charging. There is also a charge for the boxes to store and transport the light bulbs. We should have a sign at the entrance stating no paper shredding at the event. We also need to get a map of the parking lot. Staff Liaison Hubsy states request for a permit has been submitted. Commissioner Kwiatkowski adds we will need every volunteer we can get. Commissioner English states he will let the Eco Club know.

Lady Bug Event – Commissioner Kwiatkowski reports the League of Woman voters would like to partner with the EC on this event and would split the cost with us. The cost of ½ gallon of ladybugs (approx. 35,000 bugs) is about \$400. We could distribute about ½ tsp of ladybugs (approx. 50 bugs) in a cup for the recipient to spread in their yard. We need to pick an event to do this. The recommended dates to release the ladybugs are between May 1 and Father's Day. The Bike Rodeo and Clean River Sweep on May 20 are potential event options. Park District Liaison Gutman asks what the species is. Kowiatkowski states Hippodamia. Gutman states he will check to see if we want to release this species in Glen Ellyn. Chairperson Truitt asks the EC if they are in favor of the ladybug release. The EC states yes.

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 Daly reports The League of Women Voters is having an expo on Saturday at Hadley Middle School 8:30-1:30 to learn about the candidates running for the School Board.

VIII. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Commissioner Umlauf seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.

The next EC meeting – March 21, 2023

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Hubsky