

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 31, 2023

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Special
Quorum: Yes

Date: January 31, 2023
Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:21 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	Absent
Steve Swanson	Commissioner	Present
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	
Emily Rodman	Assistant Village Manager	
PUBLIC		
William Weicher	241 Travers Ave, Glen Ellyn	
Billy Joe Mills	611 Maiden Lane, Glen Ellyn	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The January 31, 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

1. *Special Guest – Hen Ellyn* – William Weicher and Billy Joe Mills, residents of Glen Ellyn, state we propose presenting this amended ordinance to the Board of Trustees to allow Glen Ellyn residents to keep hens in their backyards. The local and national trend is toward legalizing residential hen keeping. DuPage County recently legalized hen keeping in unincorporated areas. Lisle and Lombard passed hen keeping protections this year, as well. The surrounding communities of Naperville, Darien, Downers Grove, Batavia, Burr Ridge, St. Charles, Westmont, Bensenville, Wayne, Warrenville, Villa Park, and Bartlett all allow hen keeping in varying forms. The

benefits to hen keeping are:

- Fresh eggs
- Benefits the environment - Every calorie of food and protein that we can produce on our own land saves pollution expended in the transportation of eggs to our plates.
- Property rights - Hen keeping and growing food are essential property rights. The most fundamental use of land is to produce food for human consumption and survival.
- Health benefits of organic, free range
- Animal welfare
- Hens eat ticks and other bugs
- Food security
- A natural fertilizer
- Fun – getting kids outside and learning about the life cycle is important.

The EC reviews the ordinance. Chairperson Truitt asks if there were any major constraints the other communities object to. Mills states no, Lombard and Lisle has been hen keeping for 2 years, Naperville for over a decade and Chicago and Oak Park has been hen keeping for decades. Assistant Village Manager Rodman adds setbacks are a concern for residents. Trustee Christiansen adds there are also concerns this could draw more wildlife. The EC thanks Weichert and Mills for the information.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 13, 2022 MEETING –

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

MOVE TO APPROVAL MINUTES FROM 12/15/2022 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Umlauf

SECONDER: Commissioner Daly

IV. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Trustee Liaison Report: Trustee Christiansen reports the Village Board is still reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. Trustee Christiansen states she has volunteered to edit the document and the goal is to complete by the end of February for approval by the Village Board in March. The Roosevelt Road site proposals are still being reviewed. The streetscape project will start on the north side of the tracks in March. The Glenwood Station project is moving along. The developers have begun pulling permits. The former restaurant Rue, on the corner of Crescent, is becoming 504 Kitchen and is scheduled to open in February or March. They will be serving breakfast and lunch.

Commissioner Casazza asks if the EC's suggestions on the Comprehensive Plan have been added. Assistant Village Manager Rodman states the higher level concepts have been added.

B. Staff Liaison Report – Staff Liaison Hubsby reports due to the streetscape project, special events will have new locations either at COD or Ackerman Park. The Main

Street events will be set up on the south. The GWA has achieved net neutrality. The EBRT will be on an upcoming Village Board workshop. I will let the commission know when it is.

C. Park District Liaison Report - Staff Liaison Hubsy reports the Park District is still working on clearing the buckthorn at Churchill. Lake Ellyn is a candidate for a study by the University of Wisconsin on the decline of Oak trees. The Park District collected 3,483 lbs. of holiday lights.

- V. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP** – Assistant Village Manager Rodman states the purpose of this workshop is to identify the priorities that the commission would like to work on this year. Once the priorities have been identified, the commission will then develop action steps on how this will be achieved. Once action steps are completed the EC will bring them before the Village Board for approval. Assistant Village Manager Rodman sets up a prioritization exercise to help guide the process. She asks the commission to think about what are the top 3 items each commissioner would like to work on in the coming year. The initial prioritization list includes: climate reliance plan, increase recycling measures, suggest legislative changes (dark skies), green report card, compost (landfill reduction), tree ordinance, educate and engage community, heat resilience plan, leaf blowers, anti-idling, village wide Styrofoam ban, expand biking & walking routes, downtown recycling, rebuild tree canopy, recruit commissioners, build and promote good examples (gardens), give residents actionable ties to support the planet.

The EC reviews the list and decides on the top 4 categories to prioritize for next year.

1. Landfill Reduction (compost, Styrofoam ban, reduce landfill, recycling).
2. Educate & Motivate (green report card, educate and engage residents on planet support, recruit commissioners, build & promote good examples).
3. Emission Reduction (gas powered leaf blower ban, anti-idling, dark skies, expand biking & walking routes).
4. Resilient Landscapes (tree ordinance, rebuild canopy, heat resilience)

Each commissioner then selected their top 3 priorities. Commissioners Gadomski and Kwiatkowski, absent from tonight's meeting, will have an opportunity to cast their vote on their top 3 priorities. Once completed, Assistant Manager Rodman and Staff Liaison Hubsy will create a summary report on the priorities and will share it with the EC and the Village Board. The next steps are once priorities are finalized, the EC will develop action items. Assistant Manager Rodman recommends checking in with the Village Board once the EC has established the action steps so the board can provide further direction and guidance.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. April Recycling Extravaganza – Chairperson Truitt shared information from the report prepared by Commissioner Kwiatkowski. Vendors are confirmed for the recycling event on April 29. There is a grant that will allow free paint recycling. We will not be doing paper shredding for this event. Florescent Bulbs – The vendor will not be able to attend the event. They will charge \$70 to pick up the light bulbs. There is a charge to recycle each bulb – 30 cents/bulb. The EC will have to collect the money. Last year we collected \$670 and 1,607 bulbs.

The recycling mini events will be held in the summer, fall and January 2024.

B. Commissioner Updates – Commissioner Casazza reports the Illinois House is expected to introduce a bill banning Styrofoam at all restaurants in Illinois. They are exploring true reusable containers.

Commissioner Swanson reports Wheaton has passed a Dark Sky ordinance and it is requiring all new construction to be Dark Sky compliant.

Commissioner Casazza asks the EC if they would be interested in touring Groot. Groot recently installed new robotic arms. The tour can accommodate up to 10 people. The EC is interested in taking the tour.

VII. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Commissioner Swanson motions and Commissioner Abeln seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

The next EC meeting – February 28, 2023

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Hubsy