

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

Month Day, Year

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Special
Quorum: Yes

Date: May 23, 2023
Called to Order: 7:06 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:34 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present/Absent

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	Present
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	Absent
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee	Absent
Chris Gutman	Glen Ellyn Park District	Absent
PUBLIC		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The May 23, 2023 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at 7:06pm at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

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

1. Commissioner Umlauf motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds the motion to approve the amended minutes from April 18, 2023.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 04/18/2023

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Umlauf

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

AYES: # 6

IV. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT – None

- V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT** – Liaison Hubsy asks Commissioner Casazza to share any information from the previous night's board meeting regarding updates to the Comprehensive Plan, since she was in attendance. Commissioner Casazza states she shared public comment on behalf of Go Green Glen Ellyn related to sustainability. There were two other public comments on sustainability offered and additional changes on other topics mentioned by Manager Franz not included in the latest draft. There was then discussion amongst the trustees that the public hadn't been provided enough time to review the newest draft, as well as, there was concern by Trustee Gould not all changes had been accurately reflected. As a result there was a motion to table the vote on the comp plan which was denied, then reconsidered and ultimately passed. Any edits are now due in writing to the full board by June 1. (See old business for motion on resubmittal of Comp Plan language)

Additional staff report information - Streetscape information is up on the website. Trucks watering the new plants. Tree planting starting in 2 weeks for all parkway trees. Baskets going up downtown that are Warhol themed.

- VI. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT** – GEPD liaison report provided by Staff Liaison Hubsy – 46 participants to the DuPage river sweep. Continuing clearing buckthorn and honeysuckle. Engaged 300 students from local schools on field trips and presentations. GEPD environmental advisory committee met this month and discussed recycling, dark sky certification, solar panels on main street rec, where to host holiday light recycling, looking for environmentally friendly alternatives for the park district egg hunt.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

Commissioners Truitt, Kwiatkowski, Umlauf, Abeln, and Daly attended the Village workshop. We shared our strategic planning priorities from 2023, which focused on Land, Waste, and Engaging the community. We shared strategic objectives and near-term action plans in each category. We had 2 asks for the board – first, to hold a planning workshop on our 3 strategic priorities to adopt the strategic objectives and to collaborate on developing action plans to support them. Board agreed that there would be a workshop dedicated to our 3 categories in September. The second was to engage an outside consultant to pursue creation of a strategic sustainability plan. This process may take 12 months to complete, with collaborative planning between the Board, Staff, relevant commissions, and the community. We asked if the Board and Staff would engage in the next step scoping process. The Board and Staff agreed to designate representatives to participate in a scoping session with one or more consultants.

Truitt thanks the Village and forester Max Brown for the tree dedication to the Environmental Commission. Great care was taken to plant the tree at just the right time, grown from an acorn at a local nursery rather than the Pacific Northwest where trees are typically sourced.

Truitt thanks Commissioner Kwiatkowski for organizing the recycling extravaganza!

Truitt thanks Commissioner Daly for organizing the compost pickup! And for the beautiful graphics for sustainable summer initiatives. Thank you John for helping to get the Sustainable

Summer initiatives passed through Manager Franz. Thank you to Grant for helping get these communicated on the website. And to Commissioner Casazza for her work on these initiatives.

Thank you Commissioner English for working the lightbulb station during the extravaganza.

Thank you Commissioner Umlauf for 9 years of service to the Environmental Commission!

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Village Comprehensive Plan discussion and motion -

Commissioner Kwiatkowski asks about the comp plan and if we should resubmit any comments. Commissioner Swanson states that he doesn't believe the EC should resubmit any additional information to the Board regarding the Comp Plan. Commissioner English states that he believes it should be resubmitted because it can't hurt. Commissioner Daly says another option is to have the section on sustainability updated in 2 years – after we complete our sustainability plan. Chair Truitt states that she will send the EC what was previously submitted in January 2023, which was a goal with 5 high level objectives. Commissioner Casazza states that what was submitted in October 2021 is not what she would recommend for submission this time, but to look at the changes that have been included thus far and if anything else is missing, we should add it. Sustainability should inform everything and not be stuck just at the end. Further discussion ensues. Ultimately the commission wants to have a section similar to the other broad goals in the plan such as community appearance and character, transportation, parks and open space, etc. Commissioner Daly suggests that the language and format to be used is the same as the other groups that are used. Page 6,7 and 8 is where the goals need to sit. Any members of the commission should send updates to Christy by noon on Friday. She will submit the changes to the full board with the full EC in bcc.

Commissioner Swanson moves to resubmit language on the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Daly seconds. Unanimously approved

Strategic Planning Priorities

- Tree canopy assessment – forester Max Brown stated he did not believe that this would provide more information beyond the CRTI assessment.
- Curbside composting incentive – John will ask for updated numbers on the day of the next meeting.
- Sustainable yards – waiting on numbers from Jim Kleinwatcher
- Website resources – waiting to hear back from Groot. Again! Commissioner Casazza states it has been challenging to get a response.
- Commercial recycling discussion– residential recycling rates will be discussed at the June 26th board meeting – contract is overseen by admin – if we have any comments, it needs to be in the system by June 19th. This is to approve a one year extension on residential rates.
- Recycling in Penn East – U shaped parking lot - schott's park, paid for by a certain number of businesses. There is a lot of contamination currently because the trash is locked but recycling is open. Chair Truitt states we can continue to pursue the cardboard recycling idea and try to get a response from hauler. Commissioners Casazza and Kwiatkowski are working on this initiative.
- Commissioner Casazza asks if for the residential contract we could ask about better rates for composting, if we have comparative data. Hubsy says it is unlikely Groot would offer better rates, but it could be useful information for the Village to have for this meeting and for future negotiations. Commissioners Daly and Casazza will pull this information and share to Hubsy.

Recycling extravaganza was very successful! Stats were referenced from infographic

- Junkluggers 4,000lbs more than last year
- Earth Paint - 200 more cans than last year even though people had to pay for it
- Batteries – 135lbs less than last year.
- Styrofoam – 256lbs this year
- 539 cars vs 457 cars
- Lightbulbs – 1600 bulbs last year 500 last year

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- Stroll article – June 3 article – need to get photos to submit – if the commission has photos of sustainable yards, please share them to Christy. She will ask a neighbor for some photos. We can ask the Conservation Foundation as well.
- June 10 Go Green event – Truitt asked if the Village could promote this event as it directly supported our Sustainable Summer incentives. John said if we send a description that he will pass it along.
- Based on an encouragement from a Trustee to consider a drop-off location for recycling items, and a recommendation from Staff to consider a Warrenville Battery Recycling initiative, Truitt shared the process that Warrenville uses. In Warrenville, residents can drop off batteries for no charge. This is a budget item – they buy pre-paid boxes - \$1300 – 20 boxes for 43lbs of batteries each. Averages out to 20 a year. They will take any type of battery including small cell phones. The environmental commission sorts through and preps everything at their monthly meetings. If we have interest in this, John suggests to that we would need to add it to the budget for next year. There was not significant interest in this at the commission level, but commissioners would support the idea of a community group sponsoring this program.
- A for-profit Textile recycling vendor contacted the Village asking if there could be a donation drop off box placed at Jewel Osco parking lot. Staff are evaluating requirements. The vendor has not followed up but consideration of placement and how to qualify a vendor for situations like this should be taken under consideration.
- Hubsky suggests we consider which of these recycling programs we want because there is not budget for them this year, but we can consider for next year. We should prioritize. Chair Truitt suggests we research this and commissioners bring ideas forward in June.
- Taste of Glen Ellyn – commissioner Daly and Casazza ask John if there can be an ask at the Taste for glass and aluminum recycling. Have a receptacle for these items at the beer tent with signage so it is in a contained area and there are volunteers already there. Hubsky states he will ask about glass and aluminum recycling receptacles at a meeting on Thursday.
- Environmental Stewardship Report – what do we envision for trying to do? Commission Truitt envisions a document outlining achievements and projects in progress (no metrics). John can work throughout the summer with staff. Commissioner Daly suggests pulling reports from other communities as an example. We can use these as a starting point for the metrics for the workshop. A to do item for June to commission - Look at strategic objectives to see if there is anything we want to add, in case we want to submit it for the Sept workshop.

Upcoming events:

- Fall events – Sept 30 native tree and shrub sale. Commission agrees to support.
- Nov 4 recycling mini – discussion ensues on other vendors the Commission is interested in besides Dart and Flatcan. Most items are being recycled – batteries, textiles, paint, Styrofoam. Commissioner Casazza points out electronics can always be recycled curbside or at the Wheaton monthly event. Possibility to add Junk Luggers depending on space.
- Oaktoberfest on Oct 14 – Truitt asks if the Village can promote October as Oaktober month. Hubsy requests if we want that to finalize information in August and share to Grant at that time. Could look back at the biggest tree/great tree hunt as one of the ways to celebrate oaks as they are a keystone species.
- Holiday tree decorating – asked Commissioner English if he can talk to Eco club about recruiting someone else.
- Sustainability awards - Truitt presents the idea of sustainability awards and submitted a draft to the commission to review. Discussion ensues on what type of awards the commission wants to do. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky is supportive, but states that this will take work to create the program and criteria; look at all the work for the Glennie; there are so many other priorities we have agreed to be working on.
- Truitt states that shouldn't be that much work and she would like at least one residential and one commercial award. Swanson, Casazza, Staff Liaison Hubsy support including a single award through the Chamber Awards process for Green Business. Daly points out that we are not experts in sustainable landscaping and wouldn't be able to evaluate the criteria for a residential award. Truitt states that she has already received approval from the Chamber to do a Green Business Award and that she will ask the Conservation Foundation if they could help evaluate the homes participating in the sustainable yards initiative. Recognition is needed as a component to the program to incent people to do this landscaping.
- Truitt proposes to plan 2024 awards: March with the chamber, and residential for fall 2024. We can work on this at the end of the year.
- Tentatively scheduled next meeting on June 13.

X. Next Meeting & Adjournment

A. The next EC meeting, special – June 13, 2023

B. Commissioner Casazza motions and Commissioner Umlauf seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Submitted by Jacquelyn Casazza, EC Commissioner
Reviewed by John Hubsy, Staff Liaison