

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 13, 2023

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Special
Quorum: Yes

Date: June 13, 2023
Called to Order: 7:06 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:18 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	Absent
	Student Commissioner	
Also Present:		
John Hubsy	Assistant Public Works Director	Present
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	Absent
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee	Absent
Chris Gutmann	Glen Ellyn Park District	Present
PUBLIC		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The June 13, 2023 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at 7:06 PM at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 23, 2023 MEETING –

1. Proposed changes to the minutes from Chair Truitt:

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.

New Business

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.

Environmental Stewardship Report – what do we envision for trying to do? Commissioner Truitt envisions a document outlining achievements and projects in progress (no metrics). Others envision a scorecard with metrics. Commissioner Daly suggests pulling reports from other communities as an example. John can work throughout the summer with staff.

2. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Commissioner Casazza seconds the motion to approve the amended minutes from September 20, 2022.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 5/23/2023

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

SECONDER: Commissioner Casazza

AYES: 4

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT – Submitted via email

Comprehensive plan still in the works and scheduled for June 26 board meeting, public hearing and consideration for the board vote. US Bank site in the works; focus groups being held, there is a public open house for this on June 30. There is consideration to purchase another property to the east that would add another ¼ acre. Discussions still continuing with Roosevelt Rd site. It will probably be more than 1 redevelopment due to Exmoor Rd.

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT –

Annual salt purchase at the end of June for the Village. The Village will be soon be reviewing a contract extension for all refuse hauling – includes branch and brush, clean sweep. Administration (Emily) manages extension. This will be an extension for this year and then a discussion and possible full RFP for a new waste hauler. DuPage Water Commission and City of Chicago reviewing a renewal for a potential 40 year contract.

VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT –

The Park District received a donation of 90 native plants + 1000 more that they planting around the Village. 80 species of migratory birds have been documented which demonstrates the effectiveness of some of the park district restoration and planting projects. There have been new waste and recycling bins placed around park district facilities to more clearly indicate what should be recycled and trashed. Dame's rocket plants are being removed around parks. Chris stated that preference is for native plants that are native to Illinois vs native to North America and also natives over native cultivars ("nativars").

VIII. CHAIR REPORT

Asked for an update on the sustainable summer initiatives. Staff Liaison Hubsby indicated that the compost numbers were around 20-25 households. Conservation Foundation – he has visited 10 out of 15 yards and 6 have been certified. Jim Kleinwatcher recommended that we consider adjusting \$25 towards anyone who initiates participation or \$50 to be fully certified. Or we could extend the incentive through the end of the summer. Commission discusses and agrees that the promotion can be extended through October, for the first 50 residents or October 31, whichever comes first.

Commissioner Daly offers to create new graphics to extend the deadline for compost to August 31. Truitt as EC chair and Casazza as Go Green were invited to participate in feedback for the US bank site. Chair Truitt gave a recap of the feedback session.

Sustainability Strategic Planning workshop – September 18. Propose to move August meeting to August 22. Discussion whether we have a September meeting; commission agrees that dates can be determined during the August meeting.

The EC has two parallel asks – one is for the board to work with the EC to agree on strategic priorities, and there is another ask for the sustainability plan. The purpose of the workshop would be to discuss the strategic priorities with the board, irrespective of whether or not the Village agrees to work on a sustainability plan.

Scoping session – intention is to have this meeting sometime in June. Staff Liaison Hubsby will refer back with dates for this session. This meeting will be with the

consultant for the Board to understand the process to do a sustainability plan, what will come out of it and how much it will cost. The board would then need to put this out for RFP or RFQ; the board would have to approve the funds for this project.

Discussion ensues to clarify terminology with help from Staff Liaison Hubsy: Work done by the EC in December 2022 – defined as “EC priorities.” The “Sustainability Plan” would be overarching plan for the entire Village. The Scoping session is an opportunity for the EC to present the best case for why there needs to be a sustainability plan. The consultant would be the one who needs to pull public data that can be repeated and provide a baseline.

In September, the EC will share priorities and proposed actions for the board to obtain buy in. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky states that her understanding is that the EC would present information to the board on the sustainability plan as well as the priorities that have already been identified. Discussion ensues; the September meeting is focused on the EC priorities and supporting actions.

IX. OLD BUSINESS TOPICS – Covered in Chair report

X. NEW BUSINESS TOPICS

Groot – cardboard recycling – contact will not answer so project has stalled – Commissioner Casazza sent an email to new Groot contact and will provide an update upon receipt of any reply.

Website resources – Commissioner Casazza will work to review the website and send initial feedback to John in July; the rest of the EC can review and provide feedback. Plan is for the website to be updated by August. Commissioner Casazza stated that she had already asked questions to Groot but not received a response.

Greenest Region Compact (GRC report) aka “Stewardship Sustainability Report” – like Aurora/Geneva/Elk Grove Village Sustainability Report. Discussion ensues on what the report should look like, who will use it, will it be published. Clarification that this report would be to state the Village’s progress on sustainability initiatives as listed within the GRC document. EC can decide draft format and send to John for staff to complete.

John is going to work on dates for the scoping session and share with the EC.

XI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

A. The next EC meeting – August 22, 2023 – Special Meeting.

B. Commissioner Casazza motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowsky seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at X:XX pm.

Submitted by Jacquelyn Casazza, Commissioner

Reviewed by J. Hubsy, Staff Liaison