

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 28, 2023

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Special
Quorum: Yes

Date: November 28, 2023
Called to Order: 7:02 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:12 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present/Absent

Christy Truitt	Chair	Present
Jeff Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Absent
Karin Daly	Commissioner	Present
Mark Frigo	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Vacant	Commissioner	
Vacant	Commissioner	
Vacant	Commissioner	
Olivia	Student Commissioner	Present
Matilda	Student Commissioner	Absent
Also Present:		
John Hubsy	Assistant Public Works Director	
Gary Fasules	Village Trustee	
PUBLIC		
None		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The November 28, 2023 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission (EC) was called to order by Chair Truitt at 7:02 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

No public participation.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Olivia (Glenbard West student) and Matilda (Glenbard South student) are official student commissioners. Welcome to Olivia and Matilda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 17, 2023 MEETING –

1. Proposed amendments to the draft minutes:
Commissioner Kwiatkowski recommends the following changes:
 - In VI. Staff Liaison Report, “Historic Preservation and Plan committees” should be referred to as commissions, not committees.
2. Commissioner Daly motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds the motion to approve the minutes from October 17, 2023.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 10/17/2023

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Daly

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

AYES: # 4

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT –

Trustee Fasules stated that the \$85 million village budget was approved. However, President Senak presented \$650K of prospective line-item vetoes. President Senak now has five days to submit these prospective vetoes or reject the entire budget. Otherwise, the budget will pass as approved. The associated levy was also approved. The budget does include a discretionary \$25K for commission (combined) usage.

The Village and the Park District agreed to the plan for the use of the event space (new park which was formally the US Bank property).

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT –

On December 11, 2023, the Friends of the East Branch DuPage River Trail will be making a presentation on their efforts.

Snow removal started. The Village has some new snow removal crews. Road salt is used, but equipment to use a more sustainable liquid additive is in the budget. This should reduce the amount of salt used and is ultimately better for the environment.

VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON’S REPORT –

No report.

VIII. CHAIR REPORT –

On October 19, 2023, The local chapter of Wild Ones, the nonprofit education organization, held their monthly meeting at the Glen Ellyn Police Department, and invited Max Brown, the Village Forestry Superintendent, and Christy Truitt, chair of the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission, to make a presentation on sustainable plantings and their partnership with the Conservation Foundation, as well as to answer questions on how Glen Ellyn handles plantings in the parkways. Participants voiced how easy it is to work with Glen Ellyn, as compared to other towns, and had significant interest in the Conservation Foundation's Conservation @ Home certification program, which Glen Ellyn promoted to residents during summer 2023.

At an October 26, 2023 event, The Conservation Foundation invited John Hubsky and Christy Truitt to speak to local area civic leaders on our Summer 2023 incentives promoting sustainable landscaping on private land. Glen Ellyn is seen as a leader in this area, leveraging its partnership with The Conservation Foundation.

On October 25, 2023, an oak workshop was held at the Morton Arboretum. Chair Truitt attended as well as Chris Gutman from the Glen Ellyn Park District. There is a pre-settlement oak zone that stretches through Glen Ellyn which deserves to be protected and possibly rebuilt. This is a potential area to treat with special consideration for future communications, initiatives, or incentives.

On November 4, 2023, a Go Green mini recycling event was held at the Village Green parking lot. It was a success. About 140 cars passed through the event. It is believed that these mini recycling events supplement the larger annual recycling extravaganza nicely. A good sequence of recycling events could be the following:

- April (27): Recycling extravaganza
- Summer: Mini recycling event
- Fall: Mini recycling event

Note that the biennial Unlimited Refuse Pickup in Glen Ellyn is scheduled for April 29, 2024.

2024 Recycling Extravaganza

All the usual vendors have agreed to participate in the 2024 recycling extravaganza. It was recognized by the Commission that the Village provide equal opportunity for all of the vendors. Earth Paint and Flat Can both want to do the paint recycling. Perhaps we allow one to do the extravaganza, while the other can do the mini recycling events. It was noted by Commissioners Kwiatkowsky that Flat Can offers recycling of more than just paint, so that inviting them to the extravaganza made it easier to work with one vendor vs. multiple. This year, the EC will not collect any fees with recycling – we expect vendors to collect their own fees. The permit for the Recycling Extravaganza needs to be submitted by February 1, 2024.

On November 24, 2023, Chair Truitt and Commissioner Casazza met at the library to decorate the lobby tree with sustainable resources. Former Park District liaison Renae Frigo and former EC commissioner Jennifer Umlauf also donated dried flower heads from their yards. Thanks to all who helped. The library noted that each year they receive many positive comments on the "sustainable tree".

In December or January, the Village Board will recognize people whose yards have received Conservation@ Home Certification Status, as awarded by the Conservation Foundation, as part of the 2023 Sustainable Summer promotion. 11 homes in Glen Ellyn were certified in 2023.

IX. OLD BUSINESS TOPICS

In Q1 2024, the EC should have an example scope of work for a consultant to perform data gathering for a sustainability plan. The data gathering will form the basis for the sustainability plan. The EC has an example from paleBLUEdot, but needs to look at others. Chair Truitt and Commission Kwiatkowsky will work on this

topic. Chair Truitt also has a contact for an organization that worked on this for the Village of Naperville.

Tree ordinance examples have been provided in the past. The Village needs to better define what a landmark / heritage tree (that is worth protecting) is. The Chicago Region Trees Initiative is a resource. Wilmette was identified as a village with a very good tree ordinance, perhaps the best in the Chicagoland area.

Education ideas include the following:

- *Oaks are at risk.* Winter action plans to protect them. An article in January or February would be good. Could this be sent out via the town eblast or quarterly newsletter?
- *Continued promotion for sustainable landscapes.* Rain gardens and a sustainable garden tour are possibilities.
- *Recycling.* Continue to lean on Go Green. Commissioner Casazza will likely make some recommendations. Commissioner Kwiatkowski will work with Commissioner Casazza.

“Stroll” is a free publication that the EC can leverage for education. The EC can submit articles related to initiatives. Student Commissioner Matilda did a nice article on sustainable holidays. Perhaps another student article can be done in January.

Village digital newsletter is better than the proposed Facebook pages. If we have a date for distribution for something on the digital newsletter, let John Hubsby know at least 10 to 12 days in advance.

Central Business District (CBD) recycling stalled out a bit due to the need and location of recycling receptacles. Chair Truitt found a recycling organization willing to pick up recyclables from participating CBD businesses on weekly or bi-weekly basis, eliminating the need for a dumpster location. The Downtown Alliance would receive a rebate for the value of recyclables collected (pickup fee would be taken out of the rebate, making the recycling free to businesses). Chair Truitt will connect Commissioners Kwiatkowski and Casazza to the organization and they can work with the stores to determine if their recycling volume is sufficient to warrant a pickup.

X. NEW BUSINESS TOPICS

The best time for the EC to bring forward proposed policy updates is in Q1 2024. Flagging these items ahead of time is best.

The Groot waste pickup and hauling contract expires this upcoming summer. The Village is likely going out for bids to replace this. Should compost be included in that bid? The Village should receive information to determine which path is best.

MOVE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE VILLAGE REQUEST TWO COMPOSTING OPTIONS IN THE NEXT WASTE PICKUP AND HAULING BID: 1) COMPOSTING FOR ALL VILLAGE RESIDENTS, 2) À LA CARTE OPTION FOR COMPOSTING FOR VILLAGE RESIDENTS

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

SECONDER: Commissioner Daly

AYES: # 4

Other topics touched on briefly:

- Discussed potential event, in partnership with Historic Preservation Commission, to invite Trustees and local builders to the Climate Action Exhibit in Chicago. This would promote energy-efficient building choices and policies.
- The One Earth Film Festival will be held April 7 – 10, 2024. Does the Commission want to be a sponsor?
- Does the EC want to sponsor another event during Earth Week in April?
- Does the EC want to do a solar energy education piece (rooftop versus community solar)? This is something Commissioner Frigo can accomplish.
- Does the EC want to do a bike related event?

Note that the EC still has open Commissioner slots. The 2024 commission schedule will be out soon.

XI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting – January 9, 2024.
- B. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky motions and Commissioner Frigo seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Submitted by Mark Frigo, Commissioner

Reviewed by John Hubsy, Staff Liaison