

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 6, 2024

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: February 6, 2024
Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:17 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
Karin Daly	Commissioner	Absent
Mark Frigo	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Olivia	Student Commissioner	Present
Matilda	Student Commissioner	Present

Also Present:

John Hubsky	Assistant Public Works Director	
Chris Gutman	Glen Ellyn Park District	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
Gary Fasules	Trustee	
PUBLIC		
Amy Huhulin	The League of Women Voters	
Kristin Malone	The League of Women Voters	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 6, 2024 meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Truitt at 7:00 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Amy Hohulin and Kristin Malone from The League of Women Voters introduced their Anti Idling Initiative near schools to the Environmental Commission. In September, they conducted observations at D41 schools and noted 241 idling vehicles, with 60% idling for 5-30 minutes. Following discussions with supportive school officials, the League plans to add signs near schools and create an education campaign. This campaign involves emailing the school community to raise awareness about the risks of idling near children. Seeking collaboration with various organizations, they plan to roll out the initiative in March, providing signage and crafting a fact sheet outlining the dangers of idling and preventive measures. Encouraging walking or biking to school is also part of their strategy. They seek partnership and support from the village and the Environmental Commission, and if endorsed, they would like to feature the village and EC logos on

their materials to signal their support. Commissioner Frigo expresses support for this initiative and emphasizes the importance of providing statistics, particularly focusing on the health aspects, to effectively convey the message and prioritize this issue. Chairperson Truitt notes that we will need to consult with the Village regarding their support for this initiative. Amy Huhulin will provide Staff Liaison Hubskey with the educational materials to share and review with the village. Chairperson Truitt proposes including this initiative as a lead article in the April newsletter.

Commissioner Casazza motions the EC supports the League of Women Voters Anti-Idling initiative and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds the motion.

MOVE TO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ANTI-IDLING INITIATIVE

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Casazza

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9, 2024 MEETING –

MOVE TO APPROVAL MINUTES FROM 1/9/2024 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Frigo

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

IV. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Trustee Liaison Report: Trustee Fasules mentions that there will be an announcement regarding the hotel site made at the Village Board meeting on February 26.

B. Staff Liaison Report – Staff Liaison Hubskey states next week marks the kickoff meeting for the CBD Streetscape project. The schedule with the contractor is still being finalized. Most of the work, particularly east of Main Street on Pennsylvania Avenue and both sides of Crescent, will involve one-way traffic throughout the duration of the project.

C. Chairperson Report – Chairperson Truitt provides an update on the Sustainable Yards Awards, highlighting that 13 yards were recognized on January 22. Seeking input from the EC on publicizing the award recipients, Commissioner Casazza proposes posting pictures of the yards along with instructions on how to be considered for a sustainability yard award. Commissioner Kwiatkowski suggests organizing a sustainability yard walk featuring some of the winners. The EC expresses support for these ideas and also agrees to promote the winners on the EC webpage. Additionally, the Village of Glen Ellyn has received an invitation to attend

the Conservation Foundation Awards ceremony on February 15.

D. Park District Liaison Report – Manager Gutman gives an update on the holiday light recycling program, reporting that over 2,748 lbs of lights were collected, a decrease from last year's collection. Additionally, the Park District is in discussions with a representative regarding the installation of solar panels on the carports at Spring Avenue.

The Park District is launching a Trees for Glen Ellyn program aimed at training volunteers in tree planting and care, with the ultimate objective of forming volunteer teams dedicated to planting and maintaining Park District trees.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Strategic Planning Priorities

Waste Stewardship - Reduce Landfill Waste- Staff Liaison Hubsy informs the EC that the village is currently in the process of renewing the waste hauling contract and will be discussing the matter with the current provider, Groot. The previous contract was signed seven years ago, and there have been significant consolidations in the industry since then. The goal is to present something to the board by May. If the contract is extended, there is an interest in determining what additional services to include. Commissioner Casazza raises the question of whether the EC should provide input on this matter. Trustee Fasules responds affirmatively. Commissioner Casazza suggests considering options to reduce landfill waste, such as offering the clean sweep program every other year and subsidizing composting due to its current cost. Hubsy agrees to look into these suggestions.

Fall Events

Recycling Extravaganza - Commissioner Kwiatkowski provides an update on the Recycling Extravaganza, stating that the vendor Everlight has informed her they don't have the staff to collect light bulbs at the event. If we wish to proceed with collecting light bulbs as we did last year, we would need to handle the collection ourselves. Chairperson Truitt adds that although we collected a significant number of light bulbs last year, we would require more volunteers to assist with the collection. After discussion, the EC suggests notifying residents to bring their light bulbs to Batteries Plus on Roosevelt Road for recycling instead of collecting them at the event.

Additionally, Kwiatkowski adds, Project Cure is available to participate in the event, collecting wheelchairs, canes, and oxygen, and the EC supports adding Project Cure to the event. She adds, Earth Paint is happy to participate in the mini recycling events.

Summer Film Event – Chairperson Truitt and Commissioner Casazza have explored the possibility of sponsoring a sustainable film event this summer. Since One Earth Film has not reached out this year, they are considering partnering with another organization, specifically Go-Green Vernon Hills Lincolnshire, to screen a 55-minute documentary titled "We Are All Plastic People," which was recently released. While this event would be hybrid, it's still in the preliminary stages and details are yet to be finalized. Additionally, Commissioner Casazza has discovered another film titled "The

Need to Grow" and will share both options with the EC for review. The Glen Art Theater is also open to partnering with the EC.

Dark Sky Week – Chairperson Truitt informs the EC that Commissioner Daly is planning to write another article for release in May.

2. *Sustainability Score Card Plan* - The EC reviews and discusses the scope of work proposal from Pale Blue Dot. Staff Liaison Hubsy suggests that the EC can agree to use this proposal to initiate an RFQ, providing flexibility during negotiations. Commissioner Frigo inquires about the response time, to which Hubsy responds that it would take 3-4 weeks. The proposal would be sent to the selected companies and also posted publicly for other submissions. Chairperson Truitt emphasizes that once the project begins, it will take approximately 3 months to complete from start to finish. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asks about the timing for completing the RFQ, to which Hubsy explains that he would work with Sabrina to have the RFP/RFQ document ready to be sent out by the end of March, with the Commission potentially choosing a provider by the end of May, and they can start June 1 and results should be received in the fall.

Regarding the housing and transit affordability, Truitt adds this seems to be outside the EC's scope; perhaps this should be removed from the proposal. After discussion, the EC agrees to get a baseline on all categories as proposed and then decide later what the focus should be.

Chairperson Truitt suggests that the housing and transit affordability of the proposal might fall outside the EC's scope and proposes striking it from the proposal. After deliberation, the EC agrees to initially gather baseline data on all proposed categories and then determine later where to focus their efforts for Phase II and beyond.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions to submit the scope of work proposal to the village for the RFQ/RFP for the Sustainability Plan; Commissioner Frigo seconds the motion.

MOVE TO SUBMIT THE SCOPE OF WORK PROPOSAL TO THE VILLAGE FOR RFQ/RFP FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

SECONDER: Commissioner Frigo

VII Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Commissioner Casazza seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

The next EC meeting – March 12, 2024

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Hubsy