

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES

August 16, 2022

Board or Environmental Commission:

Date: August 16, 2022

Meeting: Regular

Called to 7:06 p.m.

Order:

Quorum: Yes

Adjourned: 9:17 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Present
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
Karin Daly	Commissioner	Present (Arrived 7:40)
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Steve Swanson	Commissioner	Present
Jennifer E. Umlauf	Commissioner	Present

Also Present:

John Hubsky	Assistant Public Works Director	
Chris Gutmann	Park District Liaison	
Kelli Christiansen	Trustee Liaison	
Ben English	Student Commissioner	

PUBLIC

Dennis Terdy	233 Forest Ave.	
Michael Benich	230 Forest Ave.	
Lane Reed	178 Sunset Ave.	
Abigail Johnson		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The August 16, 2022 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at 7:05 PM.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Mr. Terdy, Mr. Benich and Mr. Reed commented on gas leaf blowers:

Dennis stated their goal is for GE to take the leadership prohibiting the use of gas powered leaf blowers. He cited problems like air pollution - 2 stroke gas engines spew more pollution than a 6200lb F150. Equivalent of a 39 mile trip in 30 min use. CA study Lawn care

creates more pollution than 14M cars. Noise pollution at operation is 100dcb of noise - approaching a jet plane/jackhammer. OSHA and EPA define 55dcb outdoors as a nuisance that can interfere with eating, working or sleeping. In GE - 20-30 min per application, so this exposes workers to these risks on a regular daily basis and can cause increased respiratory issues. We know and can do better - let's take the lead in the western suburbs.

Lane Reed stated leaf blowers were designed to blow leaves - they have devolved to be used for "manicured" lawn look. Alternatives - leave the leaves - fewer work hours for municipalities, less gas and emissions reduced runoff, helpful to pollinators. Raking or electric leaf blower are other alternatives.

Michael Benich provided a list of communities in the northern suburbs that have partial or total bans for gas powered leaf blowers. He stated needs for education - for residents on the problems with leaf blowers and the benefits of leaving the leaves. Could include insert in water bill, e newsletter, as education for residents. Education is also needed for contractors/landscapers. He cited an example of a community which asked contractors for a voluntary pledge to comply - the village published their names as being compliant with the ordinance.

Michael also provided enforcement examples - tickets would go to the business, owner needs to appear in muni court. They can be excused from the ticket if they prove they purchased a battery powered leaf blower.

Commissioner Swanson asked about the range of fines - between \$150-\$350. He also asked for research on OSHA and EPA studies to be documented so the EC could share this with the Village Board.

Commissioner Truitt mentioned that there is a working group in the Northern Suburbs that is focusing on this issue. They will be disseminating information at the end of the year and Glen Ellyn can ask for the information. Commissioner Umlauf mentioned that one of the biggest challenges is the registration of contractors which was looked into for providing information on volcano mulching. Lane Reed mentioned that in Wilmette the police helped to compile a list of contractors.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked if residents would be fined. Lane responded unclear - would want to ask for a total ban eventually but to baby step for now.

Commissioner Truitt asked about the issues with pollution or the blowing the dust which is worse - Dennis Terdy and Michael clarified the majority of the pollutants from the emissions is the main problem.

Lane indicated that the gas leaf vs electric - the electric is more expensive upfront but there are not the ongoing gas oil costs.

Next steps - EC asked for the residents to continue to share research on other communities and wait for findings of the working group.

EC can recommend to the board of trustees to take actions, but cannot put the ban out ourselves.

Abigail Johnson - student at Wheaton Academy, lived in Glen Ellyn for 6 years. Works at the bookstore. Frustrated with the lack of recycling at the bookstore for cardboard boxes.

Challenges - Trustee Christiansen indicated businesses must pay for their own trash services. This includes trash, recycling, composting. Everything has to be individually contracted out as the village does not regulate what private businesses do. Commissioner Umlauf mentioned Marcel's does pay for their own recycling.

Next steps: Commissioner Truitt offered to include Abigail in a meeting with the Downtown Alliance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM July 19, 2022 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Umlauf motions and Commission Daly seconds the motion to approve the minutes from July 19, 2022 as amended by Commissioner Kwiatkowski to include “We discussed the status of the 2 open commissioner positions and the next steps as well as the confirmation of the student commissioner.”.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 7/19/2022

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Umlauf

SECONDER: Commissioner Daly

ROLL CALL: Truitt, Daly, Kwiatkowski, Casazza, Swanson, Abeln, Umlauf

IV. GUEST SPEAKER – Canceled Creative Outdoor and Recycling Solutions

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON – Trustee Christiansen provided the Village Trustee Liaison report. There was a board workshop on the Roosevelt Road Property. - reviewed the 5 design ideas from the workgroup meetings. Most of the 5 (included in board packet) included retail, medical office, restaurant, etc. Consultant will meet with developers to see if we get a match for these designs. Anything that goes before the board will have to go through the regular development process. Proponents who spoke - 14 in favor of retail and 2 in favor of affordable housing. Full circle communities made a presentation as well.

Consultant has been hired to look at Panfish Park to see what needs to be done there and what improvements need to be made. General consensus of Panfish residents was that they want it to remain a passive park.

Staff is working on budget - first presentations will be made to the village board in October. Recommend the EC to ask for anything for FY22-23 budget in next meeting.

US Bank building - there is interest in the part of the village, also interest from a developer, conversation about whether it should be used as a park (slightly over 1 acre) - primarily would use ARPA funds to finance if the Village is to acquire it.

Asks the EC to submit village issues on “See Click Fix” in particular dead or dying parkway trees.

VI. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON REPORT – Chris Gutman provided the Park District Liaison report. Go Green and Park District Sport Swap was bigger and better than previous. Raised

nearly \$700 for park district scholarship funds, positive community response, and lots of equipment leftover to donate to area organizations.

GEPD are working on retrofitting dark sky compliant lighting at Ackerman. They are also testing a bio-acoustic bird monitor at Churchill that was grant funded.

Native Tree and Shrub Sale ordering - asks for volunteers from EC and the Eco Club to help with unloading the truck on 9/30 and 10/1

VII. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT – John Hubsy provided the village staff liaison report. Trees have been put in on main, larger parkway trees but should be healthier with silva cells. South Park water main project moving along at Park and Taft. Lorraine Windsor Sawyer Chesterfield project moving along.

August 20-28, the village is promoting bio-blitz volunteer pollinator identification as an extension of the monarch pledge. Reorganization at PW - streets and forest superintendent will now be split. Some talk with CRTI about the tree ordinance - will look at our ordinance to see what it would take to get to "gold" level - initial meeting is end of this month - also will be looking into possible grant money. Conversations with NEMIC about electric aggregation began today as the village is looking into it.

Commissioner Daly asks about GEMS of Glen Ellyn trees PDF doc online and who completed this originally. **Trustee Christiansen will ask the historic preservation commission if they worked on it as something we (the EC) could update.**

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairwoman Truitt announces that Joe Gadowsky will be approved as a new commissioner at the Village Board meeting on August 22 and Ben English has been appointed as student commissioner.

IX. DARK SKIES PROPOSAL

Trustee Swanson shared his recommendations on adjusting the village design code to include dark sky compliant language for outdoor lighting for commercial buildings. **He asked commissioners to review and provide suggestions by email to him prior to the next meeting.** Commissioner Casazza stated she provided a short suggestion already by email.

Commissioner Truitt asks if there is any differentiation for different areas/where more light is needed. Swanson adds that we could address this by including language around motion detectors and timers.

Commissioner Swanson states the next step is to present the updated design guidelines to the Village board. Drafting or requesting a dark sky ordinance would be a secondary step. Trustee Christiansen recommends running the guidelines by the architectural appearance committee. Truitt asks about homeowners - Swanson recommends to work on this aspect last and start with new construction.

Commissioner Swanson also asked Assistant Director Hubsy to circulate materials about rising heat forecasts over the next 20-30 years. Increasing canopy around the entire village will be important

X. UPDATES ON FALL INITIATIVES

Student Commissioner English asks when the next recycling extravaganza will be - discussion on doing a smaller event in Oct/Jan for styrofoam and battery recycling. **Commissioner Casazza volunteers to call Dart and Flatcan to ask about one off recycling.**

Commissioner Casazza asks about any budget available for the Oaktoberfest event. Commissioner Truitt asks if there are specific items to submit and she and John can review and approve. Other potential budget items include Conservation Foundation co-sponsorship \$500, One Earth Film Festival, For CRTI Hubsky indicates that the village would sponsor the grant. EC budget is \$10,000.

XI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky motions and Commissioner Umlaf seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

**Submitted by Commissioner Casazza and
reviewed by Liaison Hubsky.**