

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 21, 2022

Environmental Commission:

Date: June 21, 2022

Meeting: Regular

Called to 7:05 p.m.

Order:

Quorum: Yes

Adjourned: 9:05 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christie Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Present
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Absent
Karin Daly	Commissioner	Absent
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Steve Swanson	Commissioner	Present
Jennifer E. Umlauf	Commissioner	Present

Also Present:

Kelli Christiansen	Trustee Liaison	Y
John Hubsky	Assistant Public Works Director	Y
Chris Gutman n	Park District Liaison	Y
PUBLIC		
Ben English	Student Commissioner Candidate	Y

I. CALL TO ORDER

The June 21st, regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at 7:05 pm at the Glen Ellyn Police Station.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 17, 2022 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Kwiatowsky motions and Chairman Truitt seconds the motion to approve the minutes from May 17, 2022.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 6/21/22

RESULT : Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner

SECONDER:

ROLL CALL: Truitt, Kwiatowsky, Umlauf

ABSTAIN: Swanson, Abeln

- IV. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT** – Trustee Christiansen reported that the Building Code is being reviewed by the Building Board of Appeals for potential amendments. She provided a summary of the Building Roundtable and discussed potential changes. The Roosevelt hotel site is continued to be reviewed for options. The developers of the U.S. Bank site in downtown Glen Ellyn have pulled out of the project. Some in the Village have discussed converting the site to park land. Finally, the Third Thursday events are continuing throughout the Summer.

- V. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT** – Park District Liaison Gutmann The Park District passed a Dark Sky Resolution. The District is partnering with the Morton Arboretum to use an experimental treatment for root rot. It received a grant to monitor wildlife in natural areas using bird acoustics and visual monitoring equipment. The Park District referendum is in the home stretch. Upgrades to Panfish Park remain under consideration. Residents who live near the area have expressed they would like a passive, meditative park. The District is exploring engineering proposals to dredge the area and improve its use for storm water retention and native planting.

- VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT** – Liaison Hubsy reports The downtown construction project is going well. The majority of the underground work has been completed in the construction area. The water main project will begin on South Main Street. The area will be ADA compliant.

The street forestry superintendent is retiring, and a search is being conducted for her replacement.

The Community Development Department and Public Works are looking at the tree preservation ordinance. Specifically, they are examining work flows and ways to improve enforcement of the current ordinance. Eligo Energy cancelled the Green Energy Aggregation Program that was signed in 2008 due to lack of participation. Commission Abeln is interested in following up with the Village on potential future options.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Commission Discussion and Reports

Commissioner Truitt thanked Jacquelyn Casazza and Karin Daly for their work with Go Green flower pots placed throughout the Village.

GE Park Dist. Native Tree & Shrub Sale - The event will be on October 1, 2022 at Sunset Park. Orders can be placed between August 15th and September 16th. Commissioner Umlauf inquired whether the event could be expanded in the future to include perennial plants.

R38 Hotel Charette - Commissioner Truitt will attend the Taft/Roosevelt roundtable to discussion options for the site's future use, and will report back to the Environmental Commission for further input.

Monarch Butterfly Promotion - Commissioner Truitt suggested sponsoring a Monarch butterfly festival in 2023. The Village signed the Monarch Pledge this year, and will be making steps to improve Monarch habitat this year. Next year, a Monarch festival could include a garden walk to showcase Monarch-friendly plantings.

Oaktober - Commissioner Truitt suggested an event to celebrate "Oaktober" this Fall. An event could be planned with either the Park District, Go Green Glen Ellyn, or the Public Library. An event could be held at Maryknoll Park, with a target date of October 1st through 8th. This could involve a "tree hunt" that would involve participants looking for different species of trees. Commissioner Truitt showed examples of "tree hunt" programs that were developed for her children. The "Oaktober" event in October and a Monarch Festival in May could be the first in a series of monthly, environment-friendly events. Other celebrations could include an Earth Day event in April; celebrating warblers during "Warbler Week" in May. The Commission can discuss partnering with other organization for these events in future planning meetings. Commissioner Swanson suggest that the Village could consider planting or expanding an oak grove at Maryknoll Park as substantive way to celebrate oak trees.

Tree Preservation & Heritage Trees - Commissioner Truitt discussed a potential tree registration program within the Village. The program would give residents the opportunity to register the trees on their property as trees of significance. Commissioners Swanson and Kwiatkowsky questioned the purpose and utility of such a database. Commissioner Swanson stated that a voluntary database would be incomplete and potentially inaccurate if residents were mistaken about the species of tree. Also, there didn't seem to be a need or request for such an effort. Commissioner Umlauf suggested that smaller trees of a significant species could also be included.

With respect to a revised tree preservation ordinance, there is a need to revisit the definition of "heritage tree." Other Villages have a more expansive definition and include many more species. The Morton Arboretum may be a good resource to consult in re-defining what trees the Village would like to designate as "heritage trees."

Bike Trails - Commissioner Truitt noted that the Village has various bike trails that pass within the Village limits. To incentivize bike riding, she suggested that the Environmental Commission or Village could develop a program to award a medallion to individuals who complete bike rides on all the trails.

Glennies - Commissioner Kwiatkowski update the Commission on the “Glennie” business recognition. There was discussion concerning how sustainable the recognition program will be. Commissioner Truitt suggested narrowing the program to restaurant or retail recycling. It was noted that additional materials needed to be distributed. After the Commission receives those, it will have a special meeting to discuss the recognition program in detail.

Dark Skies - Commissioner Swanson reported on the Dark Sky initiative. The International Dark Sky Association was published a report concerning the current state of scientific research on the topic. He will ensure that the Commission receives this report for consideration of future Dark Sky initiatives. Proposed amendments to the Village’s design recommendation are being drafted with an eye towards discussing those in August 2022. Thereafter, a revised outdoor lighting ordinance will be provided for consideration in September 2022.

IX. Next Meeting & Adjournment

A. The next EC meeting – July 19, 2022.

B. Commissioner Swanson motions and Commissioner Umlauf seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Submitted by Steve Swanson, EC Commissioner

Reviewed by Staff Liaison Hubsy