

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 16, 2024

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: April 16, 2024
Called to Order: 7:04 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:10 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present/Absent

Christy Truitt	Chair	Present
Jeff Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
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 Hubsky	Assistant Public Works Director	
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee	
Chris Gutman	Glen Ellyn Park District	
PUBLIC		
Kristen Bond	Resident, 234 Cumnor , Glen Ellyn	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 16, 2024 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission (EC) was called to order by Chair Truitt at 7:04 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

Kristen Bond, a resident of Glen Ellyn, delivered a presentation on electric vehicle (EV) readiness in Glen Ellyn to the EC. The goal was to follow-up to feedback received during the March EC meeting, and recommend that the Village join the EV Cohort Ready Waitlist. Could the Village provide information to residents on EV topics, such as home charging facts, how to get a permit, map of charging stations in the Village, etc.? Commissioner Frigo will send the presentation to the EC.

Commissioner Daly motions and Commissioner Casazza seconds a motion to put in place an EV landing page on the Village website.

MOVE TO PUT IN A EV LANDING PAGE WITH INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE.

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Daly

SECONDER: Commissioner Casazza

AYES: # 5

There are some commitments with being in the Cohort, but the Village can get informational benefits for being on the waitlist. These benefits include access to information on streamlining permitting processes, charging sites, recommended training to firefighters, among others. There is no definitive timetable to joining a Cohort. It is whenever enough towns in the group get to a critical mass. If the Village decides not to join, it can just rejoin the waitlist and restart the process. The Village can deny participation anytime.

Commissioner Frigo motions and Commissioner Casazza seconds a motion to have the Village join the EV Cohort Ready Waitlist.

MOVE TO JOIN THE EV COHORT READY WAITLIST.

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Frigo

SECONDER: Commissioner Casazza

AYES: # 5

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Commissioner Casazza asked the Village to find the “number of clicks” of spring greening initiatives such as the Recycling Extravaganza posted on the Village’s website.

The question was raised on whether there were any preliminary results on the Refuse / Recycling Survey. The answer was not yet, but the results would be made available to the EC likely in early May. The proposal for the new waste hauler is on-line. Six waste haulers showed up the request for proposal informational meeting. The EC will be able to comment on the proposed vendor and service prior to the Board making a decision.

The Hen keeping ordinance is incubating again. The “Hen Ellyn” group is promoting it. This has been a much discussed topic at the Board level. The EC can make a recommendation on the matter if it likes.

Possible future events include The Conservation Foundation yard certification information session and sustainable yard tour on July 27. It will be run through the Glen Ellyn Park District (GEPD) and Chris Gutman can be the contact.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 12, 2024 MEETING –

Proposed amendments to the draft minutes:

- Commissioner Kwiatkowski made a few meeting edits that were incorporated.
- Commissioner Frigo pointed out a typo on a motion that was fixed.

Commissioner Daly motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds the motion to approve the minutes from March 12, 2024.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 3/12/24 WITH PROPOSED CHANGES.

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Daly

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

AYES: # 5

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT –

Trustee Christiansen highlighted that the Unlimited Refuse Collection is coming up. Discussion on the hen ordinance was already discussed. Downtown road construction continues. Apex building repairs are complete. A question was asked on the Apex retail space that remains empty. Rent for those retail spaces remains high, and the space is unfinished requiring additional installation costs for future tenants.

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT –

The wastewater treatment plant is looking into solar, and an RFP is out. It is the largest electricity user for Village facilities. Lead service lines are looking to be replaced. Roadway projects are ongoing.

The Sustainability RFP that was approved last month is moving forward. The RFP will be sent out around May 8th. A bidder question and answer session is tentatively scheduled for May 26th. June 5th will be the due date for proposals. The EC will review proposals after they are submitted. This will be a major topic for the June EC meeting.

VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT –

There is a new trail at Ackerman Woods. GEPD has been spending a lot of time with tree plantings, and managing plant plug orders. Earth week programs are coming up. GEPD has some broken EV chargers. Payment is an issue that needs to be resolving before these chargers get repaired.

VIII. CHAIR REPORT –

Mayor's Caucus

Extreme heat events and how to mitigate their impact is a hot topic. Solutions include tree canopy, green space, native landscaping, bioswales, among others. Chair Truitt will send a slide deck with information.

Sustainable Landscaping Initiative

What will be the EC's initiative for the summer? Oak plantings and yard certification should continue. The EC can also promote the Lawns to Legumes program. Lombard has a tree dashboard that could be mimicked by the Village. (Chair Truitt sent information on this prior to the meeting)

2024 Recycling Extravaganza

Ready to implement. Commissioner Kwiatkowski is leading. It was recommended that safety vests be provided to volunteers by the Village. Commissioner Daly motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowski seconds the motion to request the Village provide volunteers with safety vests.

MOVE TO HAVE THE VILLAGE PROVIDE SAFETY VESTS TO VOLUNTEERS OF THE RECYCLING EXTRAVAGANZA.

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Daly

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

AYES: # 5

Stroll - Articles

Chair Truitt and Student Commissioner Olivia will collaborate on a draft on trees for May. In lieu of dark skies awareness an article on composting will be developed.

Cicadas

Cicadas are coming. Should there be information on the website, especially to debunk any myths? General consensus was likely not. However, the Morton Arboretum has information on their website.

District 87 Referendum – Glenbard West High School Addition

Commissioner Frigo reached out to Glenbard West Principal Ben Peterselli regarding EC input via the stakeholder process on tree preservation considerations for the proposed Glenbard West Learning Commons and classroom addition. This is in line with the Village's efforts to preserve valuable oak trees. This building addition, which is off the back of the high school overlooking Lake Ellyn (northeast side), will be encroaching on the hill that has mature oaks and other trees. Commissioner Frigo did note to Principal Peterselli that District 87 will need to go through the regular permitting process and that this effort was simply to provide guidance and advice with regards to preserving valuable trees. Mr. Peterselli will be the main point of contact. Mr. Peterselli did note that this process is just beginning. Commissioner Frigo will set up a meeting with Mr. Peterselli, and Chair Truitt will also participate.

Village Train Station

An open meeting on April 25 on the Village Train Station is planned. Chair Truitt has been invited, but this remains a meeting open to the public.

IX. OLD BUSINESS TOPICS

Notes on discussion integrated into various reports above.

X. NEW BUSINESS TOPICS

Commissioner Daly mentioned that the central section of the East Branch River Trail is expected to be complete by 2028. It is believed that this section extends from Roosevelt Road to the Prairie Path.

XI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

A. The next EC meeting – May 21, 2024.

B. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky motions and Commissioner Frigo seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by Mark Frigo, Commissioner

Reviewed by John Hubsy, Staff Liaison