

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 15, 2024

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: October 15, 2024
Called to Order: 7:02 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:52 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christy Truitt	Chairperson	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
Mark Frigo	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Karen Lilly	Commissioner	Present
Maggie Frigo	Student Commissioner	Present

Also Present:

John Hubsy	Assistant Public Works Director	
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee Liaison	
Chris Gutmann	Park District Liaison	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
Kristina Christie	Public Works Management Analyst	
PUBLIC		
David D'Hooge	Lambert Lake Steward	
Girl Scout Troop 5624		
Ian Dawson	Glen Ellyn Resident and Candidate for Village Board Trustee	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The October 15, 2024 meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Truitt at 7:02 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

Chairperson Truitt welcomed Girl Scout Troop 5624, who are attending the EC meeting to observe as part of their efforts to earn their government badge. The troop is also interested in working on a project for the Environmental Commission.

Ian Dawson, a Glen Ellyn resident, introduced himself to the EC, noting that he has been a member of the Plan Commission for the past two years and is currently a candidate for Village Board Trustee.

David D'Hooge, Lambert Lake Steward, presented a list of the top 10 initiatives for the project, emphasizing that Lambert Lake requires more attention than many realize

and offering his assistance for any needed information. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky commended D’Hooze for providing a clear roadmap, expressing appreciation for his efforts, which will be shared with the village and Park District. She suggested that the village should formally recognize D’Hooze’s contributions through a proclamation to acknowledge his stewardship. The Environmental Commission extended their gratitude to him for his dedication.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 MEETING

MOVE TO APPROVAL MINUTES FROM 9/24/2024 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Frigo

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowsky

V. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Trustee Liaison Report: Trustee Christiansen provided a few updates, noting that the Village Board met yesterday and annexed the property near Glen Oaks Golf Course. The Apex parking garage project was finalized, and the Village Board approved the CRC's DEI Resource Guide. The Board is currently in budget season, with workshops scheduled over the next two weeks.

On November 2, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the Glen Ellyn Civic Center will host the Civil Betterment Committee's Town Hall Meeting. Candidate speeches will take place from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, with voting suspended during that time and resuming afterward. Candidates will be available throughout the day to answer residents' questions. For remote voting, the Glen Ellyn Police Station will serve as a location for the Town Meeting Remote Voting on Saturday, November 2, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

B. Staff Liaison Report – Staff Liaison Kristi provided several updates, noting that the baseline assessment is currently in the information-gathering phase, with ComEd and Nicor having already submitted data. Staff is working on getting this information to Ted Redman, and some updates should be available by November or December. Additionally, the trees in front of the Civic Center have been removed and replaced with new ones, and the sustainable landscape webpage is now live.

Regarding the EV readiness webpage, Kristi mentioned that once the EC has finalized the content, it can be updated accordingly. The Village is preparing the 2025 Commission meeting calendar, with the Environmental Commission meetings slated for the third Tuesday of each month. The EC approved this schedule for 2025.

Commissioner Frigo provided feedback on the EV readiness content, stating that comments about registration don't need to be included, as the Village already collects that information. Kristi will verify with Hubsy if this information is necessary. Frigo

will incorporate feedback from Chairperson Truitt and Commissioner Casazza and will send the finalized document to Hubsy.

C. Park District Liaison Report – Park District Liaison Gutmann provided several updates, noting that Oaktober Fest had a steady turnout, with 370 attendees. There will be a fish release at Lake Ellyn on Saturday at 9:00 am and 10:00 am, where 1,500 fish, primarily small species like largemouth bass and bluegill, will be added to both Lake Ellyn and Fox Croft Lake. On November 2, the Pumpkin Smash and recycling event will take place. The native tree and shrub sale pickup went smoothly at the Johnson Center. He also mentioned the Sensory Garden at Newton Park, which is an engaging garden that looks and smells interesting. Unfortunately, the project fell between two departments, but efforts are underway to revive it. The garden requires some cleanup and care, making it a potential spring project for the Girl Scout troop.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Strategic Planning Priorities Chairperson Truitt reviewed the EC's upcoming priorities:

1. Land Stewardship - Sustainable Landscaping

- Commissioner Lilly provided an update on the gardens in front of the Civic Center, noting that they are currently overgrown and present an opportunity for improvement. Jennifer Umlauf has volunteered to create a new garden design, which is scheduled to be installed on Monday by Max Brown and his team. The project will not only beautify the area but also introduce new plants.

Commissioner Lilly expressed excitement about seeing the idea come to fruition and the project coming together.

- *Residential – Promoting and Recognizing Home Yard Certification* – Chairperson Truitt inquired with staff about when the yard certification recognition could be added to the village agenda. The Conservation Foundation has certified another seven gardens, and she will confirm the total number of certified yards in Glen Ellyn. Christina Kristi will work on securing a date for the recognition.

- *Municipal Sustainable Landscaping – Stewardship Discussion* – Chairperson Truitt suggested the possibility of establishing a stewardship program to maintain the landscaped areas. Commissioner Lilly agreed, noting that some focused attention would be beneficial. Trustee Christiansen mentioned that in the past, volunteer groups were responsible for upkeep, but that effort has dwindled over time as participation waned. Truitt proposed reaching out to the Garden Club for potential involvement. The EC agreed to contact the Garden Club to see if they would be interested in helping with cleanup efforts twice a year.

- *Tree Canopy Preservation* – Chairperson Truitt asked the EC for their thoughts on the broader scope of this initiative and what key issues should be addressed. Commissioner Casazza inquired about the EC's role in advising the Village Board on the matter. Trustee Christiansen responded that the EC could propose an ordinance or offer guidance on permits. Commissioner Frigo asked if there could be measures to prevent unnecessary tree removal, suggesting the inclusion of provisions in the ordinance to eliminate clear-cutting and protect significant trees.

He also raised the idea of offering incentives to discourage tree removal.

Commissioner Lilly emphasized the importance of prioritizing certain tree species, while Truitt added that significant trees—those 25 years or older, like oaks, walnuts, and hickories—should be protected unless a forester deems otherwise. Truitt also mentioned the possibility of introducing permit requirements for heritage tree protection, especially in construction contexts. Chairperson Truitt and Trustee Christiansen agreed to review the feedback and determine the next steps for the initiative.

2. Waste Stewardship

Composting – Chairperson Truitt inquired if the EC would like to send another promotional email or e-newsletter to remind residents about the composting program. Commissioner Casazza noted that last year, the incentive led to 50 new residents signing up. She asked how many of those residents are still participating in the composting program. Chairperson Truitt will investigate further to find out.

3. Engage

Quarterly E-news/Stroll content – Chairperson Truitt requested content ideas noting smart salt will be in the winter edition. Commissioner Frigo suggests Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as possible content articles for January, February and March.

Events:

- October 5 – Oaktober Fest: Commissioner Casazza provided an update on Oaktober Fest, noting that the event had 370 attendees. The presenters and vendors, including SCARCE and Two Hound Red, had a great time, and there were plenty of learning opportunities. The event featured face painting, games, and music by School House Rock, making it a fun family event. The Glen Art Theatre also showed The Lorax to an audience of 30. Casazza thanked Commissioner Kwiatkowsky, Chairperson Truitt for their assistance, and the village for sponsoring the event.
- Trees on Tap event is tomorrow night at Two Hound Red. Thanks to Commissioner Frigo and Renae for distributing 150 flyers to promote the event. CRTI, Max Brown, and Bartlett Trees will all be there to present.
- November 2 - Recycling Mini – The EC requests 8-10 vests for the event. Kristi will look into getting the vests for the event.

VII Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky motioned and Commissioner Frigo seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

The next EC meeting – November 19, 2024

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Hubsy