

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 19, 2024

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: November 19, 2024
Called to Order: 7:04 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:20 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present/Absent

Christy Truitt	Chair	Present
Jeff Abeln	Commissioner	Present
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
Mark Frigo	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Karen Lilly	Commissioner	Present
Maggie Frigo	Student Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
John Hubsky	Assistant Public Works Director	
Kristina Christie	Public Works Management Analyst	
Chris Gutman	Glen Ellyn Park District	
PUBLIC		
Kathy Franke	Warrenville Environmental Commission	
Chris English	Visitor	
Stella G.	Glenbard West Student	
Addy W.	Glenbard West Student	
Sofia S.	Glenbard West Student	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The November 19, 2024 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Truitt at 7:04 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

- A number of Glenbard West High School students were in attendance to view government in action for a class assignment.
- Kathy Franke from the Warrenville Environmental Commission was in attendance to learn more about what neighboring towns are addressing in their environmental

commissions / committees.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 MEETING –

- Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Commissioner Frigo seconds the motion to approve the minutes as is from October 15, 2024.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 10/15/24

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

SECONDER: Commissioner Frigo

AYES: # 6

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT –

- The Village Board passed a levy of 1.7% and the proposed budget....for total of 2.8%. This was 28% lower than 2023. \$171K will go toward Village capital fund.
- Donna Jean Simon will serve as interim president until elections.
- Trustee Anne Gould has taken herself out of the running for upcoming election.
- Christmas activities scheduled for the end of the month.

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT –

- Update of the Sustainability Baseline Assessment – with paleBLUEdot
 - Up and running on the foundational documents that is the basis to create the baseline assessment
 - Ground Cover – is 90% done – by Wednesday of next week (looking at trees, grass and hard ground cover) focus is to understand what is the baseline – also what economic value, heat island, some that has potentially ground cover runoff not being absorbing
 - Renewable Energy Potentials Study & Vulnerability assessment about the same as the Ground Cover
 - Green House Gas inventory at about 50% -- may be after Thanksgiving
 - After Thanksgiving – we will connect and go for the next steps
- Update on Curbside Composting (Information as of Oct. 17th)
 - 2022 = 394 Participants; 2023 = 455 Participants
 - 2024 = 585 Participants
 - 2024 Additional Breakdown -- 130 Increase from prior year; and 45 New participants; 14 ended/canceled; & Container Breakdown -- 307 = 35 Gallon; 202 = 65 Gallon; 79 = 95 Gallon
- Lead Line Update
 - There are 1,693 Unknowns
 - Almost 70 have been replaced, and planning on continuing the same pace until done
 - The new laws for the Lead Copper Rule Improvement came out on October 8th – with a new set of guidelines and thresholds that we are still digesting

- Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked if lead tine test kits are provided to homeowners. The answer is no. The Village will test only when they replace lines.

VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT –

- Pumpkin Smash collected 2,000+ pounds but was less than last year. Still well attended.
- Cold weather work in natural areas is kicking off.
- Revamping some programming.
- Working with Eagle Scouts on two projects for Eastern Screech Owls.
- Holiday light recycling at Ackerman, Spring Ave, Main St. and Johnson Center.

VIII. CHAIR REPORT –

- Civic Center Entrance Gardens - Forestry Superintendent Max Brown and EC commissioners Truitt and Lilly invited landscape designer and former EC commissioner, Jennifer Umlauf, to design a sustainable landscape garden to replace mulched beds at the entrance of the Civic Center.
 - On October 21st, Umlauf, Lilly, and Truitt worked alongside Public Works personnel to install the garden, which will afford 4-season interest while supporting wildlife and improving soil quality for the newly planted Marmo Maples.
 - Native plants incorporated into the design include *Carex pensylvanica* (Pennsylvania Sedge), *Sporobolus heterolepis* (Prairie Dropseed), *Echinacea purpurea* (Purple Coneflower), and *Rudbeckia* (Black-eyed Susan). Additional pollinator-friendly plants include several varieties of Allium, Russian Sage, Calamintha Nepeta, and Epimedium (Barrenwort).
- The OAKtober “Trees on Tap” Event sparked a number of ideas from residents and commissioners. We are exploring these in collaboration with Morton Arboretum’s CRTI team and Bartlett Tree Experts.
- Other topics worked into the New Business Topics below.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- Commissioner Casazza researched recycling pages for other municipality websites (detail can be seen in Appendix A) and made a recommendation to have a PDF (if we can’t get Groot to do a dedicated website). Commissioner Casazza liked Lombard and Solid Waste Agency of Cook County. John Hubskey said that if the EC likes one, to provide it and see if the Village can get Groot to do it. Commissioners like visual, includes recycling reduce reuse and recycle. Recommendation: Ask Groot if they can do anything, and if not, we can do something ourselves.
- Commissioner Casazza reported that November mini recycling had 64 cars go through it. Separated recycling and pumpkin smash customers and that worked well for logistics. Commissioner Casazza would like to propose to work with EcoShip (for a cost of \$250), instead of DART. Need to understand how DART is recycling the Styrofoam. Commissioner Kwiatkowski is going to contact to understand Styrofoam recycling more.

MOVE TO USE NO MORE THAN \$250 FOR APRIL RECYCLING EXTRAVAGANZA

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Casazza

SECONDER: Commissioner Kwiatkowski

AYES: # 6

- April 26, 2025 is proposed date at COD for the large recycling event. July 26, 2025 for a follow-up mini at COD. Align the third recycling event with pumpkin smash at Village Green (November 8, 2025).
- Mayor's caucus has an app that will include Glen Ellyn recycling and waste / yard waste. The Village is looking into this.
- Can Grant do something in the weekly news about curbside composting?
- Sustainable landscaping recognition will be done in January. Kristina will put it on the Monday January 27, 2025 Village Board Meeting.
- Dave D'Hooze will be recognized at the December 9, 2025 Village Board Meeting. Kristina to confirm that date.
- Chair Truitt make recommendations regarding sustainable landscapes
 - Promoting Residential Yard Certification (TCF's Conservation @ Home program)
 - Annual Village Recognition of certified yards - the EC will ask the Board of Trustees to again recognize certified yards at a Board Meeting in January (2nd Annual). 8 certified yards were added in 2024, achieving 60 certified yards in Glen Ellyn.
 - Website Resources - see last page for proposal for minor edits to the existing page as well as an addition of a more visible section to promote TCF's Conservation @ Home certification program, which provides support and yields more intentional, structured, and well-maintained native landscapes. Partnering with TCF has proven to be successful in avoiding unkempt and weedy sites.
 - Promoting Certified Yards in 2025 / Initiative Proposal - in celebration of the 50th year of the Environmental Commission (in 2025), create projects and incentives to bring visibility to the EC's key areas of focus. In promotion of responsible Sustainable Landscaping, establish an incentive to encourage residents to engage in the Conservation @ Home certification process. An example could be \$25 in 2025 for the first 100 residents to install a rain barrel or a home composter or to achieve yard certification.
 - Expanding Municipal Sustainable Landscaping
 - Municipal beds - recommendations have been made to relocate prairie plants from the CBD Streetscape planters to a more suitable location for prairie plants to thrive (such as the municipal beds along the IL Prairie Path between Park and Montclair) and to install sustainable plants with 3 or 4-season-interest in the Streetscape planters. If approved, volunteers can help with the relocation efforts. Fall 2024 would be the ideal time to ensure successful relocation.
 - Stewardship discussion - three ideas have been promoted to assist in ongoing maintenance of sustainable gardens in CBD municipal landscapes:
 - The EC to sponsor 2-3 annual Volunteer events (spring, summer, fall)

- The GW Horticulture students to contribute to garden installation or maintenance, as field-based-learning projects or as weekend service hours
- Creation of a Volunteer Stewards group under the shared guidance of GE Public Works and a local Garden Club
- Potential upcoming communication topics were discussed.
 - Q1 Series: Reduce (due 1/1) Karen, Reuse: Donating & Specialty Recycling (due 2/1) Barbara and Kristina , Recycle (due 3/1) Jac 400 – 800 words
 - Q2 Series: Community Solar vs. rooftop, EV's, and Heat Pumps? Mark and Jeff to possibly pick up – come up with ideas by January
 - Decorating the holiday EC tree – 6:30 p.m. on 11/26 at the Library. Join if you can.
- Chair Truitt looked into saving the tree by the train station. It would cost \$250K.
- All commissioners need to review tree ordinance as e-mail by Chair Truitt and come back prepared for heavy discussion at the January EC meeting.

X. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting – January 14, 2025
- B. Commissioner Kwiatkowski motions and Commissioner Casazza seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Submitted by Mark Frigo, Commissioner

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Kristina Christie

Appendix A

Recommendations to Village Recycling Page

Submitted by Commissioner Casazza 11/19/2024

Issue: The Village's current recycling information page has not been updated in a few years

(last updated by Commissioner Casazza in the Fall of 2021)

Recycling is an area where all residents can participate in environmental stewardship of our

Village. Most residents do not have time or desire to research all of the intricate "rules" that

govern the recycling process. While recycling is "free," contamination does cost the Village

money. (do we know how much?)

Recommendation: The Village can reduce costs and serve residents by making this information more easily accessible and understandable with an updated website, preferably with

graphics and details. Surprisingly, nearly every community in Illinois I looked at does this

differently! I have summarized my findings into 4 options listed below:

Option 1: Review existing language with Groot and keep the website basic.

Pros: Easiest to implement

Cons: Additional work for staff/EC today, plus to keep updated throughout the life of the service

contract. Boring to look at.

Example: Village of Woodridge (current Groot customer)

https://www.woodridgeil.gov/my_government/administration/garbage_and_recycling/c

[ur](#)
[bside_recycling_program.php](#)

[Woodridge, IL.pdf](#)

Non Groot example: Hinsdale

[RecyclingGuide_VOH.pdf](#)

Non Groot example: Wheaton

Recycling _ Wheaton, IL.pdf

Option 2: Request “Groot brochure” - other waste haulers/communities have had custom

brochures created with information about their waste hauling programs. These are linked as

PDFs on the Village websites.

Pros: Include more detailed information; majority of the work is done by Groot

Cons: Residents may not “click” the link. Examples from Groot are VERY small text. I prefer

the other community examples; could we ask for this format?

Example: Village of Woodridge (assume it is for their NEW Groot contract)

Woodridge GROOT BROCHURE 2024.pdf

Arlington Heights

2024-2025 Final Brochure arlington heights compost.pdf

Non-Groot Examples:

Carol Stream (Flood Brothers) - My favorite of this option!

FloodBrothers_Booklet_2024.pdf

Non-Groot Example: Lisle (LRS)

LRS 2023 Lisle.pdf

Option 3: Hybrid Groot Brochure + Local donation resources. Lombard put together a custom

brochure that linked to donation places like SCARCE, Lions Club, etc, in addition to containing

the recycling information.

Pros: Nice professional look and feel, easiest for residents, best organization, and more customized to our community

Cons: Additional work for staff/EC to put together the outside organizations, and would need to

be updated, though major overhaul probably not needed once established. Could we commit to

a 1x per year review? Also, we could probably “borrow” a lot of the Lombard resources.

Non Groot example: Lombard (WM) - Overall, the easiest to read visually!

wm_02932 City of Lombard Reuse_Recycling Handout 4 panel_r3.pdf

Another example but not as detailed is the SWANCC guide which is for a number of communities on the North Shore.

SWANCC Recycling Guidelines (PDF).pdf

Option 4: Request “Groot website” personalized to the Village - Arlington Heights has a custom

hyperlinked website which contains this information.

Pros: Appears to be a dedicated service page, so imagine less questions would go to staff

Cons: Residents may not “click” the link or read all of the text. Right now, it is not appealing

visually and is overwhelming with info. However, it is no worse visually than the existing work I

already did on our current webpage ;)

<https://www.groot.com/waste-management-chicago/village-of-arlington-heights>

Commissioner recommendation would be for Option 3 but to still have a dedicated website for Glen Ellyn. (option 4).