

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 11, 2025

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular/Special
Quorum: Yes/No

Date: February 11, 2025
Called to Order: 7:08 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:17 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present/Absent

Christy Truitt	Chairman	Present
Jeff Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
Karen Lilly	Commissioner	Absent
Mark Frigo	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowsky	Commissioner	Absent
John Day	Commissioner	Present
Chris English	Commissioner	Present
Maggie Frigo	Student Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
Kristina Christie	Management Analyst – Public Works	Present
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	Absent
Kelli Christiansen	Village Trustee	Absent
Chris Gutman	Glen Ellyn Park District	Absent
PUBLIC		
Ron Aubrey		Present

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 11th, 2025 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Truitt at 7:08 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

- Rob Aubrey joined the meeting to partner with Chair Truitt in presenting content on Babcock's Grove, Glen Ellyn's 200-year-old presettlement oak ecosystem, which originally covered half of Glen Ellyn. Ron shared the history of the region, including the history of the original oak groves that included parts of present-day

Churchill Forest Preserve, Lake Ellyn and Ackerman Parks, Glenbard West High School, parts of downtown Glen Ellyn, Glen Oak Country Club, and residential land from Main Street past the eastern border of Glen Ellyn.

According to the Morton Arboretum, Glen Ellyn's oak ecosystem is the only presettlement oak ecosystem in DuPage County. It has declined significantly due to development but many of the descendants of that grove are still present. Tree preservation is key - many of these 100-year-old oak trees are under environmental threat from pathogens and soil depleted by pesticides. Bartlett Tree Service has identified root rot pathogens in nearly 100% of their recent soil analyses in DuPage County. This could be a silent threat to Glen Ellyn's tree canopy.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 14, 2025 MEETING –

1. Commissioner Mark Frigo motions and Commissioner Chris English seconds the motion to approve the minutes from January 14, 2025.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM 1/14/2025

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner _Mark Frigo_

SECONDER: Commissioner _Chris English____

AYES: # 5

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT –

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT –

- Content from the EC is requested for the Upcoming Spring Quarterly Newsletter (printed newsletter).
- “Monarch project” for pollinator planting requested a list of current municipal locations in Glen Ellyn - five were submitted by Village staff.
- The basic GE Recycle Coach widget is working, and can be accessed through DuPage County's Recycling Page (website). We are awaiting training, access and final approval from the Village before we can make the Glen Ellyn Recycle Coach Widget live on our website. Then Staff Liaison Christie will be adding further information for general information, drop off locations for non-curbside recycling, special recycling events, etc.
- GROOT will be providing a Flyer for the EC review.
- On 1/31/25, Village Staff and EC Members attended a virtual meeting with Ted to discuss key learnings and conduct a pre-baseline assessment. The Foundational Research Documents were reviewed, with time for question and answer, along with a discussion of the next steps. The Draft of the Sustainability Baseline

Assessment Document is expected at the end of February. In March, the final phase will take place, including the Review of the Baseline Assessment Documents, Goal Setting and Presentations.

VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT

- May 10th - possible date for Free Compost Pickup at Village Green gardens - Laurie Bellmar to confirm.
- The holiday light recycling program has concluded for another season. We don't have a final weight yet from the recycling company, but we estimate it will be around 3,000 lbs.
- The Park District received four eastern screech-owl nest boxes from an eagle scout project. The boxes will be installed in natural areas where this species has been documented. Eastern screech-owls, while still abundant in some areas, are declining.
- The Park District has conducted extensive clearing of invasives (mature European buckthorn) at Churchill Park. The area has been seeded with 38 species of native plants, and we will host a community tree planting day to plant native trees - in collaboration with a \$750 donation from GoGreen Glen Ellyn and with a donation of 32 trees and shrubs from CRTI to celebrate the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission's 50th year.

VIII. CHAIR REPORT

- Welcome to new Commissioners John Day and Chris English
- Thank you to Commissioner Karen Lilly for her service on the EC and for promoting sustainability in landscaping and gardening throughout Glen Ellyn! For personal reasons, she must step away at present, but we are grateful for the impact she has made and look forward to continuing to collaborate with her in gardens around the village.
- Annual Village Recognition of certified Sustainable Yards - the Board of Trustees recognized 8 new certified sites at the January 27 Board Meeting (2nd Annual). There are now 60 certified yards in Glen Ellyn - the highest per capita in the region, and 2nd municipality in total number of certified yards.
- Thank you to Commissioner Kwiatkowsky and Staff Liaison Christie for developing a STROLL article on Sustainable Reuse
- Thank you to Commissioner Frigo for his two-page article on community solar resources. It can be sent to "Stroll" Magazine or may be developed into a Village digital newsletter.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - Strategic Objectives

- LAND - Sustainable Landscaping

- Discussion about possible promotions to continue to grow the number of certified sustainable yards on private property in the Village.
Commissioner Day proposes that posting certified addresses (with homeowner consent) on the digital Village sign to help commemorate and celebrate these yards helps to get the community engaged. Commissioner Day also proposes the idea to set a goal of “200 certified yards by 2034” (when Glen Ellyn turns 200 years old) = roughly 15 certified yards per year.
- Discussion of Mayor’s Monarch Pledge and the need to protect pollinator habitat from pesticides. Commissioner English offers write up an educational article regarding the harms of residential summer insect spraying towards native pollinators, specifically Monarch butterflies.
- LAND - Tree Canopy Preservation
 - Chair Truitt proposes that the Environmental Commission supports the Morton Arboretum’s Oak Ecosystem Recovery Project - by developing an initiative to support Tree Preservation and Replanting in the original Babcock’s Grove area (see public comment above).
Preliminary ideas include: conducting soil analysis to create a public report of soil health in Babcock’s Grove and presenting findings at a public Village meeting in May to help educate and spread awareness. Actions can include soil treatments to rebalance soil nutrients, strengthening and rejuvenating trees. Soil sampling field work may be done in partnership with Glenbard West horticulture students.
 - Tree Preservation Ordinance Update - Chair Truitt plans to attend a March CRTI Workshop at the Morton Arboretum on Municipal Tree Ordinance Writing, which will offer inputs from other municipalities.
- WASTE - Recycling
 - Recycling Extravaganza planning in progress – permit from College of DuPage has been granted and flyers have been printed.
 - Shredding event (the following week in Lombard) can be shared if people bring paper to the Recycling Extravaganza.
- ENGAGE - Events
 - Proposed Idea: Chair Truitt has collaborated with Morton Arboretum’s CRTI - they are willing to bring 50 trees to commemorate The Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission’s 50th Year. Requirements include establishing 1-2 community tree planting dates and identifying locations for tree planting where 3 years of ongoing watering and care can be provided.
 - Proposed Idea: Commissioner Casazza made introductions for Chair Truitt with Bridge Communities, a non-profit organization that provides job skills training and affordable housing in 5 properties along Pershing Avenue. This area of Glen Ellyn is underserved and could benefit from sustainable landscaping and enhanced tree canopy. Comm. Casazza and Chair Truitt recommend that the EC collaborates with Bridge to introduce partner organizations such as The Conservation Foundation (TCF), CRTI, and others to bring expertise, volunteers, and fundraising as a sustainable community beautification project in the EC’s 50th year.

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The next EC meeting – March 18, 2025. Chairman
- B. Commissioner John Day motions and Commissioner Chris English seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Submitted by Maggie Frigo, Student Commissioner

Reviewed by Kristina Christie, Staff Liaison

Updates by Christy Truitt, Chair