

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 18, 2025

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: March 18, 2025
Called to Order: 7:04 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:24 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christy Truitt	Chairperson	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Absent
John Day	Commissioner	Present
Chris English	Commissioner	Present
Mark Frigo	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowsky	Commissioner	Present
Karen Lilly	Commissioner	Absent
Maggie Frigo	Student Commissioner	Absent
Also Present:		
Kristina Christie	Management Analyst – Public Works	
Chris Gutmann	Park District Liaison	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
PUBLIC		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The March 18, 2025 meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Truitt at 7:04 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2025 MEETING – Deferred to next month's meeting.

IV. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Trustee Liaison Report: No report.

B. Staff Liaison Report – Staff Liaison Christie provided several updates: Discussions are ongoing regarding the possible rescheduling of Village and commission meetings.

On February 28, Groot submitted new recycling flyers, which are currently under review, with some changes requested. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky emphasized the importance of including a clear statement in the flyer advising residents not to place recyclables in plastic bags, as these items will not be recycled.

Recycle Coach Update:

An app or widget will be added to the Village website to provide recycling information. Discussions about its placement and data integration are still underway.

The Village has received inquiries about whether floppy disks will be accepted at the upcoming recycling event or where they might be recycled. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky suggested that SCARCE may be a possible option for accepting them.

C. Park District Liaison Report – Park District Liaison Gutmann provided several updates:

The Park District is replacing the car chargers at Sunset Park, Ackerman, and Mary Knoll, with 90% of the cost covered by a ComEd grant. The new chargers will operate on a pay-per-use system.

The holiday lights recycling program was a success, with 3,283 pounds of lights collected and recycled.

The Park District has posted the open tree care position to replace the forester. This individual will be responsible for the care and maintenance of all trees.

Chairperson Truitt inquired about the tree planting event scheduled for May 9 at Churchill Park, where CRTI will provide the trees and Go Green Glen Ellyn will offer funding. She asked whether both entities should be acknowledged at the event or if separate tree planting days should be planned for each organization. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky mentioned that Go Green is leaning toward having a combined event. CRTI will have a volunteer sign-up available on their website and will provide the necessary tools and the first year of mulch. The Park District will need to commit to ongoing care, including weekly watering and mulching.

Regarding curbside composting, Truitt added that compost will be provided for Village Green on May 9. Gutmann will confirm with Lori at the Park District to ensure that date works.

D. Chair Report – Chairperson Truitt provided an update on the meeting she attended regarding the high school referendum. The presentation included an overview of the tree plan, identifying which trees would be removed and which ones would be preserved. They also plan to replace displaced trees on a one-to-one basis within the designated area.

During the meeting, Ron Aubrey and Chairperson Truitt inquired whether growth inhibitors would be used during construction and if growth promoters would be applied afterward. The representatives agreed to follow up on this request.

Truitt then asked the Environmental Commission (EC) for input on the commission's role in this project. Commissioner Frigo suggested that the EC should remain engaged by attending meetings, providing feedback, and ensuring that when the tree preservation plan is released; all necessary elements are included in the special use permitting process.

She provided feedback from the tree ordinance workshop held at the Morton Arboretum hosted by CRTI. Wilmette representatives attended and provided a detailed overview of their ordinance, which includes a tree replacement fee. The funds collected from this fee are allocated to a grant program that allows residents to receive financial assistance if they wish to plant a tree. This information was shared with Trustee Christiansen.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

50th Anniversary of Glen Ellyn Initiatives – Chairperson Truitt provided an update on plans for the 50th Anniversary celebration, which includes certifying 50 yards and planting 50 trees. She is also exploring additional opportunities for sustainable plantings in the downtown area, including renovating Volunteer Park, which serves as the gateway to Glen Ellyn. Max has expressed interest in designing the landscape for Volunteer Park, with support from The Conservation Foundation. Additionally, Max is interested in transforming the Monte Clare parking lot into a Monarch pollinator habitat, aligning with the Mayor's Caucus initiative to promote monarch migration. Truitt also suggested inviting former EC commission members to participate in all EC planting events.

Chairperson Truitt proposed including the Bridge Communities Project as part of the 50th Anniversary initiatives. She provided an update on a recent meeting where she discussed the potential for renovating the landscape along Pershing Avenue. A landscape designer has volunteered to enhance the landscaping around the building; the Conservation Foundation will also take part in this project as well as the CRTI in providing tree planting near the site. The project is partially funded, and the EC may explore additional funding opportunities. The CEO of Bridge Communities expressed support and noted that if the EC could raise \$10,000, they would match the amount. Truitt suggested involving volunteers for planting days, emphasizing the positive impact this project could have on the area.

The next steps include raising awareness about the project and exploring potential fundraising efforts. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky raised questions about the logistics of fundraising for private entities. Commissioner English added that the EC could contribute by promoting sustainable landscaping and supporting the fundraising event through volunteer efforts.

Recycling Extravaganza Update – Commissioner Kwiatkowsky reported that flyers for the event are ready to be posted. She will send a reminder to all participating vendors on March 26. Kwiatkowsky also asked Staff Liaison Christie to ensure that vests are included for the event. She then asked the EC members to confirm who will be volunteering, with Chairperson Truitt and Commissioners Frigo, Day, English, Truitt, and Student Commissioner Frigo confirming their attendance.

Greenest Region Compact Initiatives – Chairperson Truitt highlighted several initiatives under the Greenest Region Compact, including community certifications, Dark Skies, and the Monarch Pledge. She suggested that the EC could pursue certifications for Bees and Birds City as part of these initiatives.

Commissioner English shared a write-up on protecting local pollinators, outlining alternatives to pesticide use. He volunteered to research the certification criteria for Bee City and Bird City designations and will present his findings at the next meeting. English also committed to sending the criteria to Staff Liaison Christie by April 7 to share with the commission.

Sustainability Assessment – Staff Liaison Christie provided an update, noting that initial feedback on the assessment is being sought. Ted has proposed holding a workshop to review the assessment and help establish realistic and achievable goals. Once these goals are finalized, he will present them to the Village Board.

The EC is encouraged to review the document and provide feedback to Staff Liaison Christie by March 31. After receiving input, Christie will work with Ted to schedule the workshop.

Commissioner Kwiatkowsky mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce recently held its awards ceremony, where, for the first time, a Green Business Award was presented. Nominations were submitted, and the Chamber conducted reviews and interviews with the nominated businesses. The award was ultimately given to À La Main.

Commissioner Day informed the EC that the State of Illinois has proposed legislation, which would allow for the composting of human remains to be used as fertilizer. If passed, this legislation could become law in 2027.

VII Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Commissioner Day motioned and Commissioner Kwiatkowsky seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

The next EC meeting – April 15, 2025

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, Kristina Christie