

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (EC)

MINUTES

September 16, 2025

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: September 16, 2025

Called to Order: 7:07 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:30 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Present/Absent

Christie Truitt	Chair	Present
Jeff Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
John Day	Commissioner	Present
Chris English	Commissioner	Present
Mark Frigo	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Present
Monica Miller	Commissioner	Present
Vacant	Commissioner	

Also Present:

John Hubsy	Staff Liaison	Present
Sonia Bhagwakar	Village Trustee	Present
Chris Gutman	Glen Ellyn Park District	Present
JD Barrett	Management Analyst	Present

PUBLIC

Matthew Jones	GE Zoning Board, Trustee candidate	
Jill Paulus (via mail)	Wheaton Resident	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The September 16, 2025 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Truitt at 7:07 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

- Matthew Jones is observing. He is on the GE Zoning Board and a trustee candidate.
- Jill Paulus, resident of Wheaton, provided the following written note mailed to Commissioner Frigo: *To all the Environmental Board: Thank you for all your work to protect Glen Ellyn Natural Resources for our community. I thank you too, for allowing me to comment at length on the trees and hill preservation at Glenbard West. I understand D87 is now in direct communication with the Commission, so I hope that is fruitful.*

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 19, 2024 MEETING –

- Date typo at the top of the August 19 meeting minutes needs to be fixed. There needs to be some additions to those minutes that Chair Truitt will provide later. So, the Commission will just table the approval of the August meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Kwiatkowsky motions and Commissioner Day seconds the motion to approve the minutes from June 17, 2025 meeting and defer the approval of August 19, 2025 minutes to next month.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2025

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner Kwiatkowsky approve June and defer August minutes.

SECONDER: Commissioner Day

AYES: # all

V. TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT –

- PaleBlueDot presented the Phase 1 Sustainability Baseline Assessment Report to the Board yesterday.

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT –

- Finishing up some construction projects.
- Prepping for winter.
- 10 miles of roadway to be reconstructed in 2026.
- Explanation of capital budgeting on equipment provided by Staff Liaison Hubsby.
- No definitive plans for bike lines right now, but are considered in street design.
- Explanation of concrete versus asphalt streets provided.

VII. PARK DISTRICT LIAISON'S REPORT –

- Ackerman (Lenox Road area)
 - Finished Lenox Road section of Ackerman with new parking lot.
 - Outdoor nature classroom.
 - Garden plots there starting next summer.
- Native tree and shrub sale → sold 94.
- Foxtrot - Lotus lily pads treated and removed.
- Weekly migratory bird walks ongoing.

- Planning for Oaktoberfest. Discussion held around Environmental Commission paying for permit fee. See further discussion below.
- Oak regeneration project.
- New tree care person hired for GEPD.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT –

- Commissioner Miller helped with setting up restoration of monarch habitat. Mary Colby put together design for Montclair location. Volunteers coming.
- Tree ordinance update: Commissioner English and Chair Truitt met to discuss changes. Used Wilmette as an example. Recommendation that for every tree of 5 inches of DBH removed, you would replace it with another tree (1-1.5 inch trees). Replace on private land, public land, or put money into fund to be used for grants for other tree plantings on private or public property. Trustee Christiansen to review with attorney and present to Board after budgeting season, likely early 2026. EC will be able to review final draft. Unclear when in sequence EC review would happen. Current changes are for tree preservation with building permit.

IX. NEW BUSINESS TOPICS

- We are eligible for Leadership Circle, and can move up to Champion Circle for Monarch pledge. Chris English will be focusing on. What's needed: if we want Champion Circle then we need to change weed ordinance to meet requirements. GE doesn't enforce weed ordinance for native plant installations (as long as it is taken care of).
- Commissioner English gave an update on the Mayor's Monarch pledge. One of the things the EC can do is support a seed bank. The Glen Ellyn Public Library currently has one. Commissioner English is going to check with them on what support (publicity/seed sharing/donation) they need. Commissioner English will come back to the EC with a recommendation on what they need and what we can provide to meet that need.
- Mini Recycling: Only one vendor committed (Junk Luggers). The question discussed within the EC is whether to still hold the event. Importance of having a regular cycle and "muscle memory" within GE noted. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky to reach out to Junk Luggers and see if are interested being the only vendor. Guidance from EC given → By September 30, if we get two more entities, go forward. If not, cancel unless Junk Luggers is willing to do it on their own.
- Curbside composting. Have Grant do a marketing blurb on this.
- Need stickers from Groot to finish job on putting recycling instruction on cans. Might be better for Recycle Coach App and in Village Newsletter using a QR code.
- Oaktoberfest – October 4 from 1 – 4 p.m. 20 different vendors. May need volunteers.

MOVE TO APPROVE \$150 FOR EC TO PAY FOR PERMIT FOR OAKTOBERFEST.

RESULT: Motion unanimously carried

MOVER: Commissioner English

SECONDER: Commissioner Miller

AYES: # all

- Glenbard West tree inventory: Chair Truitt and Commissioner Frigo took a tree inventory. They met with Glenbard West to offer advice. Conservation Foundation,

Morton Arboretum (Chicago Region Tree Initiative – CRTI), and Bartlett Tree Co. are willing and interested to collaborate with Glenbard West. Glenbard West is requesting its building permit this fall. Chair Truitt requested that non-binding recommendations and advice be attached as an addendum to the building permit. This request spurred debate on the role of the Environmental Commission in large projects in Glen Ellyn, and the appropriateness of providing advice and commentary on projects outside the bounds of the Environmental Commission Meeting (see next bullet).

- Several members of the Environmental Commission have expressed frustration and major concern on how the Commission has not been consulted on construction projects and purchases that can have a major environmental impact on the Village (for example, Glenbard West addition and purchase of a new fleet of golf carts). No real process seems to exist in the Village to 1) identify major projects in Glen Ellyn that need environmental review and advice, and 2) how to properly engage the Environment Commission to provide any relevant recommendations for the Village Board to consider. Staff Liaison Hubsy and Trustee Bhagwakar have agreed to consider this to see if there is a solution. The Environmental Commission needs to think of potential solutions as well. This should be discussed at a future Commission Meeting.
- Staff Liaison Hubsy is going to request a proposal for Phase 2 Action Planning from PaleBlueDot.

X. Next Meeting & Adjournment

A. The next EC meeting – October 21, 2025.

B. Commissioner Casazza motions and Commissioner Kwiatkowsky seconds the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by Mark Frigo, Commissioner

Reviewed by J.D. Barrett, Management Analyst