

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
November 18, 2025**

Board or Commission:	Environmental	Date:	November 18, 2025
Meeting:	Regular	Called to Order:	7:00 p.m.
Quorum:	Yes	Adjourned:	9:42 p.m.

Member Attendance: Present/Absent

Christy Truitt	Chair	Present
Jeff Abeln	Commissioner	Present
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
John Day	Commissioner	Absent
Chris English	Commissioner	Present
Mark Frigo	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowsky	Commissioner	Present
Monica Miller	Commissioner	Present

Also Present:

J.D. Barrett	Management Analyst	Present
Sonia Desai Bhagwakar	Trustee Liaison	Present
Chris Gutmann	Park Liaison	Present
Public		
Tara Sheeley		

I. Call to Order

The November 18, 2025 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Truitt at 7:00 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. Public Participation- None

III. Approval of Minutes-

Correction's needed are: Move comment of Bike Lane- page 3 move to J.D.; add clarification to Bike Lane comment.

Move to Approve the Minutes from October 21, 2025 and September 16, 2025
 Result: Motion to approve as amended
 Mover: Jacquelyn Casazza
 Seconder: Mark Frigo
 Ayes: Unanimous Voice Vote

IV. Reports

1. Chris Gutman- Park Liaison
 - a. Pumpkin smash was a success, 8491 pounds of pumpkins
 - b. Native seeding around Ackerman construction
 - c. Invasive brush removal season- hitting Churchill Park, volunteers are welcomed
 - d. The Park District assisted St. Petronille with removal of invasive brush
 - e. Holiday light recycling bins out on Monday, Nov. 24- Locations are Ackerman, Spring Ave, Main St. Frank Johnson Center
 - f. Park District having tree inventory of every park to be able to track every tree

Discussion regarding sudden Oak decline; it was related that there is focus on soil and soil quality that are factors that support strength of tree. Climate change can weaken and promote pests that damage the Oak trees. Climate change also causing an increase in Herbivores.

2. Trustee Liaison Report- Sonia Desai Bhagwakar
 - a. Presented concern on having involvement with new developments to Village Board which is being supported/approved by Village Board
 - i. Suggestion was made that J.D. can be added to Planning email distribution list to review new projects and then provide Environmental Commission feedback to Planning Commission before meeting
 - b. Provided the 2-page action items to Village Board; The Community Development Director will see which will go into the Zoning Action Plan; from those remaining, it will be 2-3 action items per year for a total of 10-year timeline
 - i. Any that is ordinance or zoning related should be extracted from sustainability plan
3. Staff Liaison Report- J.D. Barrett
 - a. Recycling Extravaganza- April 11th, 2026
 - i. Discussion to reschedule as Wheaton is scheduled to host on same day; 11th of April will be requested first and alternative will be 25th of April
 - b. Groot Spring Clean Up the week of April 13th, 2026
 - c. Tree Preservation Ordinance- Staff are in the process of reviewing and revising the existing ordinance.
 - i. Chairperson Truitt added that she has speakers from Bartlett trees and Morton Arboretum that are willing to come in and speak with Board
 - d. EC Dates for January 2026 will need to be moved to January 13th or 27th; Feb. will need to be moved to February 24th, 2026

4. Chair Report- Christy
 - a. Tree workshop at Arboretum
 - b. Recycling update provided by Barbara- Thought is to do two big ones. It was still a positive success despite lower recycling collection
 - i. Calls were received regarding Styrofoam recycling, should there be an article on educating community on why it is not offered or offer the Styrofoam recycling.
 - ii. Research on Styrofoam recycling needs to be done

V. Old Business Topics

1. Strategic Planning Priorities
 - a. Zone Code update topics will be extracted to provide to Jennifer
 - b. Tailor priorities to Glen Ellyn specific
 - c. Objective for next 2-3 years is what Board would like to see
 - d. Downers Grove plan was discussed which had a Consultant assist with creating; plan also included a Community Pledge covering various categories, such as recycling, and composting

J.D. Barrett- Admin did appreciate/like the Downers Grove plan

Christy- Wastewater Management/Water- objective is to reduce energy for waste management, resilience for storm water and flooding, maintaining clean water. Have a baseline to document, pipe leak is biggest responsibility at municipal level. Water reuse within municipality- how can Village reuse water. Plan to look at municipal buildings and streets to see if they are resilient to flooding. Make recommendations to residents to educate them on water consumption. What are guidelines regarding what Village will allow to be established with a Financial Incentive; is there a way to structure a program with a financial incentive. Examples about task forces that Skokie and Downers Grove have, can staff look at to see if we need a task force, is there a current issue? Hardscaping left on water section as it can cause more of an issue with water.

Overall trying to reduce water consumption; Set guidelines or limit of what new developments could impact such as AI Data Centers and water consumption.

Mark Frigo- Buildings/Energy- Three main categories: energy efficiency, fuel switching, energy use from renewable sources. Municipal operations, action 1 and 2 difference is doing a study on how to change things we already have in place to make it operate better, second is what projects we should take on to improve energy usage. Lights and Dark skies also included. Goals were retained as suggested by PaleBlueDot.

Jeff Abln- For Efficiency category is to promote from what anyone can already do to increase efficiency. Fossil Switch could be a longer project.

Commissioners are curious about how many rental properties, new properties and retrofit properties exist within a year. J.D. is to look into the yearly number.

Chris English-Transportation- Integrate nature in highway parkways goal edited, electric car change over (provide incentives to community/ changing municipal vehicle purchasing program, facilitate EV charging) encourage more walking and bikeability, ensuring infrastructure exists to support both, public transit- focusing on having people take public transportation, intergovernmental/ between communities, changeover of gasoline that can't be switched to electric to zero emission vehicles like lawnmowers, increase fuel efficiency. More impervious surfaces, solar canopies identify areas where these are more beneficial than others.

Jacquelyn Casazza-Waste- Total waste gradually growing down, recycling and diversion is flat. Suggestions are more on programs and initiatives, no ordinances as those would be a bit challenging. Construction and Demolition waste- big opportunity as identified by PaleBlueDot. Increasing organics and compost percentages- perhaps a community drop off. Perhaps have larger events have composting, pilot hen keeping for 15 permits per year. Multifamily locations, do they have recycling space. Feed the Cart- recycling cart

VI. New Business

1. East Branch DuPage River Trail for bikes, discussing probabilities for that route.
2. Is there a way to promote recycling without promoting a business? Would be nice to include listing of local recycling locations. Could we potentially include in newsletter?
3. Could include an Environment tip in newsletter each month- can that be included? J.D. to look into it.

Moving forward to refinement, everyone will read and comment on each other's assigned categories after refinement. Can be shared with Google Docs using Word. 2 Pages per section is what is being asked for. Refined version to group due by December 5th and email to all December 19th, on January 5th come in with finalized refinements. Ordinances can be sent to Chris to be added to excel sheet.

Commissioner Kwiatkowsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner English.

Adjourn 9:42pm

Submitted by Adriana Ohl, Recording Secretary

**Reviewed by J.D. Barrett,
Management Analyst**