

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 13, 2026

Board or Commission: Environmental
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: January 13, 2026
Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:01 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Christy Truitt	Chairperson	Present
Jeff D. Abeln	Commissioner	Absent
Jacquelyn Casazza	Commissioner	Present
John Day	Commissioner	Present – Late Arrival 7:06
Chris English	Commissioner	Present
Mark Frigo	Commissioner	Present
Barbara Kwiatkowsky	Commissioner	Present
Monica Miller	Commissioner	Present
Tara Sheeley	Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
J.D. Barrett	Management Analyst – Administration	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
Sonia Desai Bhagwakar	Village Trustee-Elect	
Chris Gutmann	Park District Liaison	
Public		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The January 13, 2026 meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Truitt at 7:00 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM November 18, 2025

Commissioner Miller motioned to approve the November 18, 2025 meeting minutes as amended and Commissioner Kwiatkowsky seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

III. **LIAISON REPORTS**

A. Trustee Liaison Report: Trustee Bhagwakar reported that the Village has approved a consultant to assist with updating the zoning codes. She also noted that the Village Board held a strategic planning session with a consultant earlier in the week to discuss goals over the 10-year, 5-year, and 3-year planning periods, and that this process is ongoing. Additionally, she shared that the Village hosted an e-bike workshop the previous evening, which generated significant discussion.

Staff Liaison Barrett added that a traffic study RFP has been issued that will include an evaluation of bicycle safety. The study will help determine whether the Village should consider reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph.

B. Staff Liaison Report – Staff Liaison Barrett reported that work is currently underway on the Tree Preservation Ordinance. Once the ordinance is finalized, a workshop will be scheduled prior to its adoption. Chairperson Truitt added that the ordinance will be fully redrafted and significantly improved from the original version, and she expressed appreciation to Village staff for taking on the effort.

Barrett continued by noting that the zoning code update project is scheduled to kick off later this month, and that the Village has retained a consultant to assist with the process. Any priorities identified by the Environmental Commission will be shared with the consultant. He also reported that staff is reviewing building permit fees, with particular consideration being given to analyzing demolition fees.

Regarding EV charging data, Barrett stated that limited data was available. From January 12, 2025, through January 12, 2026, there were approximately 2,900 charging sessions across all five EV charging stations.

He concluded by noting that the Monarch Butterfly Proclamation will be celebrated on January 26.

C. Park District Liaison Report – Park District Liaison Gutmann provided several updates. He reported that the holiday lights recycling program will conclude on January 25 and that fewer lights were collected compared to previous years. He also noted that work on Project Churchill, which focuses on buckthorn removal, is underway but was temporarily paused due to extensive rainfall. In addition, he shared that the Park District has implemented a new volunteer management software system that will be used moving forward.

D. Chair Report –

Announcements: The Village's 3rd Annual Sustainability Recognition Night will be held on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., and members were encouraged to attend. The event will open with recognition of the Village and Park District for earning the Mayor's Monarch Pledge Monarch Champion designation for 2025, as well as residents who received Conservation @ Home certification through The Conservation Foundation. After the presentations, Commissioners and award recipients are invited to gather at Nobel House for appetizers.

Tree Preservation Ordinance: Progress continues on the Tree Ordinance revisions. A revised draft is expected to be ready for Commission review as early as the February meeting.

E-News Sustainability Tips: The suggestion is to create an annual, time-aligned list that can be refreshed each February through January.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Strategic Planning Priorities

Recycling Extravaganza – Commissioner Kwiatkowsky reviewed the confirmed vendors for the April recycling event with the Environmental Commission (EC). The Commission discussed whether to offer paper shredding at the event. Chairperson Truitt noted that shredding services involve additional costs, including approximately \$400–\$800 for a truck to collect and transport the material. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky stated that she supports offering shredding and emphasized that a decision must be made prior to the next EC meeting, as a permit is required at least 60 days in advance. She also noted that once the truck reaches capacity, shredding collection would be closed.

Chairperson Truitt asked the EC for input on offering shredding. Commissioner Frigo inquired about the environmental impact of shredding services. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky responded that shredding primarily serves as a convenience for residents and may encourage participation in recycling other materials. Chairperson Truitt added that the DuPage County Environmental Committee offers a \$600 grant for paper shredding, which could be used for reimbursement. She noted that the net cost to the EC could range from \$100 to \$800. Staff Liaison Barrett reported that the 2026 EC budget totals \$1,500, of which \$500 is earmarked for the Conservation Foundation. Chairperson Truitt added that additional funding could be requested from the Village if necessary.

Commissioner Kwiatkowsky reiterated her support for offering shredding and suggested tracking participation, specifically noting the number of vehicles dropping off shredding only versus those recycling shredding and additional materials, to help inform decisions for the fall recycling event. Chairperson Truitt made a motion to approve up to \$500 from the EC budget for paper shredding and up to \$250 for ECO Ship. Commissioner Frigo seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kwiatkowsky then noted the need for volunteers at the event, particularly for ECO Ship. Commissioner Sheeley offered to investigate the cost of renting a van to support this effort. Regarding Styrofoam recycling, Dart confirmed availability for April 11, noting that while Styrofoam is recycled, not all material can be processed. Commissioners Kwiatkowsky and Frigo supported offering Styrofoam recycling, while Commissioner Casazza did not.

Regarding paint recycling, Commissioner Kwiatkowsky reported that a new program allows designated paint centers to accept paint for recycling at no cost, making it unnecessary to pay for this service at the event. She stated that EarthPaint has

agreed to accept paint free of charge at the event. The EC agreed to include EarthPaint at the April event and to communicate to residents about local paint recycling centers.

The Environmental Commission discussed creating a QR code, to be included on a flyer or business card, that would link to information also maintained on the EC website for resident reference regarding recycling. Staff Liaison Barrett stated that he will coordinate with Grant Paplauskas to ensure the content is hosted and maintained on the website.

Strategic Planning Priorities Category Document – Chairperson Truitt asked the Environmental Commission to review their proposed items once more to ensure they clearly reflect what the Commission is requesting the Village and staff to accomplish. She stated that the initiatives should be refined and prioritized, with each team ranking its items based on high impact potential. The Commission will then review the priorities collectively. Commissioners were asked to complete this review by February 13.

VII New Business

- A. Sustainability Action Planning - Chairperson Truitt asked the Environmental Commission to review the relevant ordinance sections and the items on the list to determine whether any changes should be recommended for consideration to the consultant. Once individual reviews are complete, the Commission will collectively review the list and forward it to the consultant. Commissioners were asked to submit their feedback to Staff Liaison Barrett by January 30. The list will be reviewed at the February EC meeting.

VII Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. The Environmental Commission discussed adjusting its meeting schedule to better align with the Plan Commission's meeting schedule in order to provide timely feedback on large-scale projects.

Pending Village Management confirmation, Chairperson Truitt made a motion to move the EC meeting from the third Tuesday of each month to the second Tuesday of each month, beginning in April; Commissioner Casazza seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

- B. Commissioner Day motioned and Commissioner Frigo seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

The next EC meeting – February 24, 2026

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Staff Liaison, J.D. Barrett