

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
MAY 19, 2026**

Board or Commission:	Environmental	Date:	May 19, 2026
Meeting:	Regular	Called to Order:	7:00 p.m.
Quorum:	Yes	Adjourned:	8:05p.m.

Member Attendance: Present/Absent

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

Also Present:

J.D. Barrett	Management Analyst	Present
Sonia Desai Bhagwakar	Trustee Liaison	Absent
Chirs Gutman	Park Liaison	

A. Call to Order

The May 19, 2026 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Truitt at 7:00 PM at Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

B. Public Participation- None

C. Approval of Minutes- a brief recommendation was made to possibly bold the resolutions which are voted on.

Move to Approve the Minutes from February 24, 2026 and April 21, 2026

Result: motion to approve

Move to Approve the Minutes from April 21, 2026

Result: Motion to approve

Mover: Chris English

Secunder: John Day

Ayes: Unanimous Voice Vote

Mover: Monica Miller

Secunder: Mark Frigo

Ayes: Unanimous Voice Vote

D. Reports

1. Chris Gutman- Park Liaison

- a. CRTI planting event; planted 27 trees with 30 people, 25 trees at Ackerman for arbor day
- b. 4-year phase plan at pan fish- phase out the invasive species and restore with providing a visual screen for residents
- c. Aggressive approach to managing Lake Ellyn with nutrient binding, restoration and min use of chemicals. Trying to address the restoration on shoreline buffers and try to do as much nutrient binding as possible; max depth of 9ft, more than likely not 9ft anymore and how to best deal with the algae. Pollution could be attributed to lawn care that goes into the water, water shed into Lake Ellyn is a big part and there used to be multiple streams that flowed into the lake, some which are now underground or gone. Rain garden has been a success. Working with Glenbard West on broader project
 - i. Commissioner recommended that perhaps the Park District to add some sustainable landscaping and pesticide management info to the newsletter or perhaps hold a community event.
 - ii. Lake Ellyn has springs that feed into Glen Ellyn but not fed by Lake Superior
 - iii. Pan Fish- blind spot that has caused potential accidents
- d. Earth week 190 people attended during the week
- e. Glen Ellyn Manor has had some vandalism

2. Trustee Liaison Report- Sonya Desai Bhagwakar- Not Present

None

3. Staff Liaison Report- J.D. Barrett

- a. GWA- received \$21,000 grant for pollinator farm on property

- b. Trees- approach which was favored was the three design models – would like something similar for Aug/ Sept workshop
 - i. Will need budget numbers after the workshop to submit for calendar year 2027
 - c. Compost Dropoff Project- plan on requesting funds for Calendar Year 2027 budget process; proposal start with pilot and have funds to extend if it goes well.
4. Chair Report- Christy Truitt
- a. Planted over 50 trees in Glen Ellyn with CRTI, 25 at high school, 25 at Park District. Eco club at Glenbard West participated, at Park District the local Glen Ellyn community participated along with some Environmental Commissioner members. Additionally, community members from Naperville, Downers Grove and other towns showed up
 - i. How do we get Glen Ellyn Residents excited about planting trees within our community; perhaps plan with a community corporation to promote the day
 - b. Tree preservation-For June meeting, JD will bring research to discuss more about topic. Maybe look at Westmont Tree Permit program, CRTI recommends chain linked fence around trees, what type of tree fences would be required/ recommended.
 - i. Hidden benefit (value) of trees is being able to reduce storm water issues in town; value of tree canopy that disperses the water when raining
 - ii. Perhaps target construction contractors and hold them accountable- is there a way to tie contractors to police bad contractors/jobs
 - iii. Question was asked about trees causing a problem at burial site; if that were to happen Village would address
 - iv. Another question was asked about what would happen if resident asked to cut down tree but was denied; who would be liable? If that were to happen, case would have to be addressed by Village.
 - c. 50 yards conservation at home program- Village will sponsor certification fees for the first 50 certifications for community residents- sign up via website
 - d. Summer of the Monarch- May 12th great event with residents speaking with other residents- June 9th next event, website is on glen Ellyn page; also using website to promote plant sales
 - e. Pesticide management with sustainable landscaping, what to plant and what not to use- has an effect on Lake Ellyn
 - f. Glen Ellyn Recycle website- Tara working on promoting the program via website providing the residents with how to recycle.

3 points of Recycling:

- i. Know what to throw away
- ii. Empty, clean, dry
- iii. Don't bag it

When in doubt, throw it out

Add second page to provide information on where to drop off recycling items such as paint suggested.

E. Old Business Topics

1. Strategic Planning Priorities- make a digestible presentation, get everything down to 2 pages, what are our priorities, further developed on a 2-pager document
2. Need staffs feedback and make sure that the strategic planning priorities tie with comprehensive plan. Starting with waste and water first followed by the rest so that board members have time to review.
3. Sustainability action planning shooting to complete at tail end of Tree Design Models- shooting for September 1st before budget review

F. New Business

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

Adjourn 8:05pm