

**MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
September 20, 2004**

Call to Order by the Chairman

The September 20, 2004, meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairman Fuller at 7:00 p.m. in the Lunchroom of the Village Hall.

Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

Roll call was taken and Chairman Fuller noted a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Beck, Blomquist, Freeman, Glennemeier, Chairman Fuller, and Ms. Robyn Flakne, Nat. Res. Manager and Staff Liaison

GUESTS: Mr. Fred Gullen, Park District
Ms. Nancy Halliday, retired naturalist
Mr. Peter Salamoun

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the August 16, 2004 minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page five, first paragraph, last sentence, delete "Food" and insert "Pollution".

Page six, last paragraph, second sentence, insert "aware" after the word "people".

Page seven, first paragraph, last line, strike the word "regarding;"

Commissioner Glennemeier moved to approve the August 16, 2004 minutes. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

General Communications

None.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

New Business

Discussion of Volunteer Stewardship at Sleepy Hollow Park

Mr. Fred Gullen, of the Park District, said he is interested in participating with the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to develop a volunteer stewardship at Sleepy Hollow Park.

With some of the Draft Assessment Reports and other studies that have been done, it would be good to use Sleepy Hollow as a model for various things in different parts of the Park. He wanted to know the Commission's priorities for the volunteer program.

Perhaps this project could begin with:

- elimination of invasive species
- incorporating more appropriate plants, especially on the river bank, to set an example for riparian owners
- Boy Scout service project

The Park District has a small greenhouse. They have started growing several hundred red oak and swamp white oak trees and planned to put them in the nursery area. Maybe some could be used for Arbor Day Activities.

The Park District has received mesic and wet native plant seeds from Oakton Community College and has grown them in the Park District's greenhouse. A current pilot project is at Community Park West, off of Milwaukee Road, to learn, practice, and use alternative landscaping and management practices which may eventually extend to some other parks.

For Sleepy Hollow the first step would be to outline a management plan to know what volunteers would be doing. Other steps would be to:

- Identify an area to work on.
- Develop a training program for the Spring.
- Control invasive species.
- Riverbank modification.
- Woodchipping a main trail.
- Placing logs over trails that should not be used.

Connecting the river to the flood plain, as recommended in the consultants' report, would require more discussion. Commissioners Beck said the Park District tries to include ecological recovery when each neighborhood park is planned. It has not been very successful. Tall Trees residents did not want the area along the river cleaned up because parents believed the brush to be a natural barrier to keep their children from the river. The well worn foot paths to the river don't support this view.

Maybe the consultants' report has a suggested cross section of what could be done on a bank that could be adopted for specific stretches along the parks. One of the problems along the river is too much shade. More sweet flag and other native vegetation should be planted at the river's edge. When green ash, willows, and box elders have fallen over, we need to keep these trees from returning therefore a desirable tree should be planted in its place.

Commissioner Beck said preparing residents with information is important, explaining the NRC is planting healthier, native species which are more resilient, noting the work will be completed by volunteers. Commissioner Freeman said a sign reading “Restoration in Progress” will alert residents who may not understand why there are bare spots. Commissioner Glennemeier suggested developing a flier and distributing it to nearby homeowners and inviting them to a “kick-off” day emphasizing a positive change. Commissioner Blomquist suggested being proactive involving the public.

Chairman Fuller said these ideas are consistent with the plan the NRC is developing for the West Fork. The Commission can provide contacts and support to the Park District. The NRC would like to know what the Park District requires to help move this project along. We should have a clear proposal as to what we want to accomplish and why, including photographs of plants that are missing from this landscape, such as: cardinal flower, sweet flags, etc.

Commissioner Freeman suggested taking a small, visible area to be used as a demonstration area—clean it, plant native species, showing the public what the NRC is proposing. Mr. Gullen suggested starting at a focal point such as the bridge and that the Park District could chip the brush that is cut.

Mr. Gullen said the last time the MWRD came through with their chain saws cutting trees from the riverbank was about ten years ago. We need to find out if or when they will be back again.

Commissioner Beck said the Commission may want to contact Commonwealth Edison to let them know that when they are cutting off the tops of trees, they may take down the whole tree if it is a buckthorn, box elder, honey suckle etc.

Chairman Fuller said after the Commission receives the consultants’ report, then the Commission will write the West Fork Plan, which will be a broader document. Mr. Gullen will contact the Boy Scout who is working on his Eagle Scout project and see if he is available to volunteer with the Park District soon. Ms. Halliday suggested volunteers start by removing smaller invasive plants such as garlic mustard then plant in its place shade-tolerant herbs that can grow along the bank edge, like Virginia blue bells and cardinal flowers on the paths and ground cover first, then work our way up to trees.

Commissioner Freeman suggested contacting schools to grow plants in classrooms then plant them in the Spring. Mr. Gullen explained the Park District is working with 13 public elementary schools who typically want to improve their own campus.

Commissioner Beck said the next Park District brochure could include information about starting a volunteer group which will teach skills that can be used in maintaining one's own yard. It is important to be clear what the days are. Maybe a story could be written in the Glenview Announcements, putting a fun theme around the volunteer work, like a clown. Chairman Fuller emphasized distributing leaflets in the bordering neighborhood. Commissioner Freeman considered passing out or posting information to people enjoying the park. Also, offering doughnuts to volunteers may increase numbers.

Chairman Fuller said a couple of the Commissioners could survey the park, with Mr. Gullen to identify an area to begin the project, choose an invasive plant or two to remove, make sure the Park District approves, pick some dates, create a flyer, make some posters including a rain date, and pass them out.

Mr. Gullen noted that appropriate activities could include:

- trail clean up
- removal of invasive plants
- create a list of native plants to be planted
- secure a Boy Scout troop)

On Tuesday, October 5, at four o'clock Mr. Gullen will meet at the Sleepy Hollow bridge with those Commissioners interested in walking the park to determine their next step. He will inform the Park Services Committee so it will be on the agenda at the Park Board meeting.

Review of Watershed Materials

Chairman Fuller found a State of Virginia website that had wonderful information about ecosystems. Ms. Flakne received a video tape entitled "After the Storm" produced by the EPA and The Weather Channel, among other materials, about an introduction into watersheds. It was produced by the EPA and The Weather Channel. The Commission viewed the fifteen-minute tape. Commissioners enjoyed the tape and some discussion followed. Commissioner Freeman thought this video would be a good candidate to show on GVTV. Commissioner Beck will pass the video on to Mr. Chris Warren.

Commissioner Beck explained that out of the fifty states, 46 have fish advisories due to mercury contamination in the waterways. Lake Michigan and Lake Erie are starting to get cladofera along the shores and mercury is on the rise again. Having the wetlands and streams connection is so important. It is important not only for water quality but for plant and animal life.

Chairman Fuller said Canadians came up with a system called Yellow Fish Road. A stenciled yellow fish is painted next to street drains indicating that what flows into the

drain goes to the river. The cast iron grates on the street in The Glen have little fish stamped into them.

Old Business

Review Draft of West Fork Assessment Project

Chairman Fuller asked the Commissioners to review the consultants' first draft and e-mail comments to Ms. Flakne and him. Copies of Chairman Fuller's comments on the report were distributed to the Commissioners. Ms. Flakne will give a copy of the consultants' draft to Ms. Halliday.

A meeting with the consultants will take place at the next Natural Resources Commission meeting in October to present the first draft and collect feedback.

Chairman Fuller said one aspect of the report that is missing is information on the watershed such as: 1) how much of Glenview is in the watershed; 2) what are the main collection areas and where do they come out in the river; 3) determine if the major storm outlets are impacting the river in specific ways; and 4) detention ponds within the basin.

Chairman Fuller said it would be interesting to provide outlines on a map to show drainage areas and where storm sewers enter the river. The beginning of the river starts where the outlines are placed.

Prioritization of Public Outreach Items for Commission

Commissioners Blomquist distributed some urban forestry brochures and found an excellent tree website at www.treefolks.com. Ms. Halliday displayed a poster on tree roots. Commissioner Beck also displayed some information and suggested starting a file in the library where material would be available. She distributed her comments on Commissioner Blomquist's list of NRC priorities and would like Commissioners' to further refine the list.

Commissioner Freeman said that the headquarters for a company called Earth Friendly Products, on Green Bay Road in Winnetka, may be interested in sponsoring an event with the NRC. Commissioner Freeman said there should be a hazardous recycling day in Glenview. Chairman Fuller said SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County) near Oakton Community College is actually within Glenview and has held several events accepting household hazardous waste.

Commissioner Beck spoke of getting the public involved with the Park District, coordinating with schools, and determine what tools the Commission needs to illuminate its work, such as television, fact sheets, demonstrations, and signage. The Commission should develop a worksheet displaying information for a matrix of information by time of year. Commissioner Freeman suggested linking NRC information to the Village's website and

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will contact Ms. Janet Spector-Bishop. The NRC could simplify the navigation to information.

Chairman Fuller will send a copy the material on Haverford Development to Commissioner Freeman.

The next two meetings of the Natural Resources Commission are October 18 and November 15, 2004.

Adjournment

Commissioner Glennemeier moved to adjourn. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary