



MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
January 18, 2010

Call to Order by the Chairman

The January 18, 2010 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairman Fuller at 7:04 p.m. in the Village Hall Lunch Room.

Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

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

PRESENT: Chairman Fuller; Commissioners Beck, Blomquist, Halliday, Nelson, and Saunders; and Ms. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

GUESTS: Mr. Matthew Morrison, Public Works Department
Ms. Mary Cannon, Observer for League of Women Voters
Ms. Chris McCooey, Observer for League of Women Voters

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the November 16, 2009 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page two, first paragraph, second line should read "... August 2,000 people were visiting The Market each week. Help provided by Ms. Sheri Latash, ..."

Page two, third paragraph, second line should read "... Ms. Liz Gogola ..."

Page four, first paragraph, second line should read "... suggested erecting artificial structures for Great Blue Heron nests ..."

Page four, first paragraph, fourth line should read "... while having a nesting colony may be admirable, the birds attracted to this area would have an impact ..."

Commissioner Blomquist moved to approve the November 16, 2009 Minutes as corrected. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0.

General Communications

None.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

Reach 1 Project Progress

Ms. Flakne said the Reach 1 Project is funded with stimulus money and therefore comes with a set of deadlines:

- construction contract will be awarded at the February 4, 2010 Village Board meeting
- loan approval by February 17, 2010.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is evaluating the recommended low bidder and is considering the loan application.

The Village of Glenview has never before used the State Revolving Loan because better terms have been available elsewhere. The process involves time-consuming paperwork, much of which is being done for the first time.

Design examples for the Reach 1 project were included in this meeting's informational packet.

ESA Nomination Process for Gallery Park

Ms. Flakne said the Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) nomination is currently on hold because the details of the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the Park District and the Village are still being negotiated. The ESA had been scheduled to go before the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) on December 15, 2009 but did not. Chairman Fuller expressed concern that although negotiation of the IGA includes many things not related to the ESA designation and does not necessarily involve a public process. The decision on whether and how much of the park should be designated as an ESA is a zoning matter with a well established process involving the ERC, the Plan Commission, and the public. His hope is that the ESA process will proceed in a timely manner and provide input before completion of the Agreement.

Chairman Fuller said the ESA nomination for the parcel that forms a triangle east of the prairie by Cardinal Road may be taken off the "on hold" list.

Update: Christmas Tree Collection

Ms. Flakne said the new system of recycling holiday trees will continue through the end of January. Mr. Matthew Morrison said 4-5 trees were dropped off at the Public Works facility. The Village collected 93 trees through its multi-family properties. The Park District has chipped 85 trees. Mulch from Christmas trees has high acidity so its use is generally limited to under pine trees.

Update: Christmas Lights

Mr. Morrison said the recycling of Christmas lights will continue through the end of January. The drop off point for lights is the Public Works Department located at 1333 Shermer Road.

Update: Green Table

The Green Table Resource Book was delivered to Ms. Lorin Ottlinger, Assistant Director of The Grove, and will be available at the Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center. Commissioner Saunders met with Ms. Ottlinger and Ms. Sheri Latash and discussed creating a Volunteer Committee. Ms. Roxanne Junge will also help organize Green Table Volunteers. Ms. Ottlinger will send an e-mail to those people who signed the Green Table volunteers list.

Update: Stormwater Task Force

Commissioner Beck said the Village Board has received recommendations from the Stormwater Task Force (STF). Additional solutions include an expanded Rain Garden Program and Village-subsidized rain barrels. At the next NRC meeting Ms. Flakne will provide some information about the estimated 30 rain gardens currently participating in the Village's Rain Garden Program in order to aid Commissioners' evaluation of this program.

Commissioner Beck participated in a task force meeting with School Districts and the Park District regarding land located at the former Glenview Naval Air Station purchased by the Village. There is some concern about what will happen to this land. The task force will reconvene to discuss this issue as well as:

- Is this land adjacent to natural areas?
- Could it hold stormwater?

The STF also discussed regional projects which could be funded by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). The Village will determine a financial plan for the STF's recommendations. Ms. Flakne will keep Commissioners informed on this issue.

Lot 16 may play a role in storm water management, but it will be part of a regional approach being developed by MWRD. The Village's consultant has conducted an engineering analysis of alternatives for Lot 16 and the NRC recommended an additional alternative of having gravity storage without a levee resulting in a naturalized wetland system. The results of this analysis should be available soon. The NRC would like to be ready to improve Lot 16 when the budget allows.

Perhaps the Tall Trees Association and other homeowner's associations in neighborhoods affected by flooding could invite Mr. Joe Kenney to walk the neighborhood and discuss what homeowners can do to improve their stormwater situation. Could the Village help with costs? The Association should meet and share STF ideas.

Commissioner Beck suggested an early spring workshop sponsored by the Village, STF, and/or the NRC on ecological ideas for landscaping. Perhaps the NRC could create a workshop tailored for each of Glenview's homeowner's associations where Mr. Kenney would make a presentation of

the STF findings, a Commissioner would explain the goals of the NRC, and opportunities within the community to promote a green infrastructure would be conveyed.

Ms. Flakne and Commissioner Beck will contact Mr. Kenney to learn what the Village is trying to accomplish with STF priorities and determine if the Rain Garden Program would provide a good model for future programs.

Update: Others

None.

Plan for Nature in Glenview Implementation

Ms. Flakne said the *Plan for Nature in Glenview* and its *Implementation Plan* runs through 2013.

Chairman Fuller was pleased with the Natural Resources Commission's 2009 accomplishments and hopes the Commission can continue to make an impact on the Village.

The Commission reviewed the *Implementation Plan* and had these comments:

-- page 3: Other 2009 Projects

Ms. Flakne will assess the 2010 budget in order to determine if it allows for these deferred items:

- "Review of Village ordinances from natural resources perspective." The NRC concluded it is important that the project be undertaken during 2010 in order to be prepared for increased activity when the economy recovers.
- "Review opportunities and mechanisms for open space preservation" could be deferred until 2011 if necessary.

page 3: Other 2009 Projects

- "Review of Environmentally Significant Area candidates" should be deferred beyond the timeframe of this plan.

page 4: Other 2009 Projects

- "Extend Loyola pedestrian path" should be put in 2011.

page 4: Other 2009 Projects

- "Plant Gallery Park medians" Ms. Flakne will determine if the Park Center and Attea School parking lot medians are under the Village's purview.

page 5: 2010 Capital Improvement Program, West Fork Habitat

- "Diversify in-stream habitat" remove "\$26,000 at Lot 16;"

In 2010 find money to prepare a feasibility study for Baxter as was executed for Reach 1.

page 6: Other 2010 Projects

- “Propose/implement native landscaping incentive program following rain garden model” should be switched with:
 - page 7: Other 2011 Projects
 - “Continue native landscaping incentive program” which would be the first year of this program and should start early.

page 8: 2012, Capital Improvement Program

- “Baxter Property” the Village will apply for grants for a feasibility and design study, therefore, it should not be planted. The feasibility study should be inserted in the 2010 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). If the 2010 Capital Improvement Program is not suitable, this item should be moved to the 2011 Capital Improvement Program. In either 2012 or 2013 the design and construction should begin on an estimated \$200,000 project.

-- page 9: Other 2012 Projects

- “Additional public/private partnership programs: incentivize riverbank restoration” This program should be prioritized over incentivizing native landscaping.

Ms. Flakne explained the projected five-year budget for the Village has allotted \$100,000 annually for construction of a NRC project, fifty percent of which is expected to be grant reimbursed. So \$50,000 is projected for the next five years each year for a \$100,000 project. However, \$30,000 per year for twenty years has been allotted to Reach 1; consequently, the NRC has a \$20,000 budget.

The three detention basin retrofits the NRC has discussed, the Shermer basin, Lindenwood basin, and Pfingsten basin, will be constructed this year. There is a pending 319 grant proposal to construct three more detention basin retrofits for 2010 or 2011. After the detention basin retrofits have been completed, this project should be reassessed.

Chairman Fuller explained that the Capital Improvement Program budgets are driven by grants. The largest portion of the Commission’s CIP budget is in the three segments of the Chicago River: Reach 1, Lot 16, and the Baxter property. After that the NRC’s focus will be the streambank program and native landscaping.

In 2011 the NRC will negotiate with MWRD for stormwater planning which has regional implications and how this would work with proposed regional solutions while maximizing green benefits to the Village of Glenview.

Commissioner Beck will begin working on a Village-wide definition of “green infrastructure.”

The NRC should begin creating a five-year communication plan which includes publicity strategy and education through a combined effort from Village, Park District, and NGOs. There may be

residents who do not understand the concept behind invasive species. Public education could include:

- once-a-month seminars on specific topics lasting one hour
- a speaker visiting existing organizations such as homeowner's associations, service clubs, and churches.

Discussion on this topic will continue at the next NRC meeting. Ms. Janet Spector Bishop will attend either the February or March, 2010 NRC meeting.

Commissioner Halliday volunteered to create a display of invasive plant species for the Glenview Public Library.

A copy of the 2010 budget is available at the Glenview Public Library and on the Village website.

Signage in Gallery Park will be erected some time this year.

Commissioner Saunders will contact someone from Highland Park's Environmental Commission to learn when the next meeting will be held of neighboring green commissions.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Commissioner Blomquist moved to adjourn. Commissioner Halliday seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary