



**MINUTES**  
**GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**February 15, 2010**

**Call to Order by the Chairman**

The February 15, 2010 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairman Fuller at 7:05 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. Roy Fickel, Public Works Department  
Mr. Matthew Morrison, Public Works Department  
Ms. Kim Seebach, David R. McCallum Associates  
Mr. Ron Ganim, Glenview Resident

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the January 18, 2010 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page two, sixth paragraph, sixth line should read, "... a public process. The decision ..."

Page two, sixth paragraph, ninth line should read, "... will proceed in a timely manner and provide input before completion of the Agreement."

Commissioner Blomquist moved to approve the January 18, 2010 Minutes as corrected. Commissioner Halliday seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

**General Communications**

Chairman Fuller began the meeting by observing the passing of Ms. Mary Cannon who, as a representative of the League of Women Voters, often attended Natural Resources Commission meetings. Ms. Cannon was highly regarded by the community. The NRC extends its sympathy to her family and friends.

[Commissioner Beck arrived.] Ms. Robyn Flakne introduced Mr. Roy Fickel, Superintendent of Forestry and Streets, to the Natural Resources Commission.

**Consideration of Cases on the Agenda**

None.

## **Old Business**

### **Median Redesign Plans (Guest speaker from McCallum Associates)**

Ms. Flakne said the Village has developed a plan to improve one median per year. McCallum Associates was hired to develop a redesign for all of the medians. This year a median on the northern end of Patriot Boulevard and Chestnut Avenue will be redesigned in late summer or early fall.

Ms. Kim Seebach from McCallum Associates gave a short presentation on the median redesign planned for 2010. There will be a simple grouping of shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses providing color and texture during the seasons. Native plant selections were chosen because of the harsh island conditions which include dry, poor soil and the need for salt-resistant species. Plant beds were set back to keep a driver's sight-lines open.

The median's existing crab apple trees are not particularly healthy and their shade may prohibit establishing an herbaceous layer of other plantings. Ms. Seebach said McCallum Associates will examine each crab apple tree to ascertain if it will thrive.

Commissioner Blomquist suggested extending the planting bed north around two of the median's trees and using wood chip mulch so that:

- mowing would not be necessary around any of the trees
- there would still be an open sight line
- the median would absorb more water.

The Commission thought this was a good alternative to mowed grass and may expand this idea elsewhere. It is important to establish some method to keep the wood chips in place.

Commissioner Beck expressed concern, from a stormwater management aspect, about the median's poor quality of dirt which is piled up into a mound. Installing swales, gravel patches, and boulders would improve drainage.

### **Rain Garden Program Presentation**

Ms. Flakne gave a Rain Garden presentation. The Glenview Rain Garden's pilot program began in 2007 with \$10,000 budgeted for compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

A rain garden is typically planted with native grasses and wildflowers. Rain gardens:

- absorb and filter rainwater before it gets into the stormwater system
- remove many commonplace pollutants
- create wildlife habitat
- are low maintenance
- are aesthetically pleasing.

The Rain Garden Program process:

- Application form is available on the Village website
- Application needs to show there is a drainage benefit to the plan and demonstrate its use of native plantings and amended soil
- Village provides a guideline that can be used in the design development
- Resident supplies the Village with a design for a rain garden and plantings for evaluation
- After the design is approved, the resident installs the rain garden and submits a photocopy of invoice costs
- Village inspects the rain garden and provides partial reimbursement.

The Village will reimburse residents fifty percent of the cost of installation up to \$1,000. Typically, residents spend more than \$2,000 on their rain gardens; if the Village were to increase the maximum reimbursement, it would greatly benefit residents.

While rain gardens are low maintenance they do require some weeding. Public rain gardens were installed in 2008 at Forest Drive for residents to inspect. In 2008 the Village of Glenview won a Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Conservation Award for developing the Rain Garden Program. The number of applications has increased each year. Participants who replied to a survey agreed their rain garden has helped alleviate the drainage problem and is aesthetically pleasing. The Village continues to monitor and maintain the program. Participants allow the Village to observe their rain garden for five years.

The Stormwater Task Force also promotes rain gardens.

Mr. Joe Kenney assisted Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) develop their rain garden. It may be beneficial if signs were installed at OLPH for passersby to note the respective area is a rain garden and not just an attractive perennial garden.

#### ***Plan for Nature in Glenview Implementation***

The Implementation Plan has been updated. Even though the NRC's 2010 budget is closed, Ms. Flakne will re-examine it in August to determine if all monies have been spent. There are many projects earmarked in the 2010 budget which depend upon grants being awarded. The 2011 budget development will begin in July.

The property west of Glenbrook Hospital is being developed so it is no longer considered a place of interest in the Natural Resources Plan on the Village website.

Commissioner Saunders announced Highland Park's Environmental Commission will host the next meeting of regional green commissions; the date has not yet been determined. The Friends of Chicago River could be invited to attend future meetings. Perhaps the regional green

commissions should be mentioned in the *Plan for Nature in Glenview's* Implementation Plan as local commissions are partnering and sharing best practices.

Chairman Fuller will read about the Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership to learn their focus.

Perhaps The Friends of Chicago River would be interested in partnering with Glenview in promoting education for riparian landowners in order to improve their landscaping by planting native species and removing invasive plants.

Chairman Fuller suggested Commissioners read the *Plan for Nature* before the next NRC meeting in order to:

- Discuss items that can be publicized
- Review of non-budget items.

The NRC would like to confer with Ms. Janet Spector Bishop about creating:

- a statement which describes Reach 1
- a statement describing the changes planned for Reach 1
- informational outreach materials for:
  - the Village as a whole
  - riparian residents.

Chairman Fuller thanked Ms. Flakne for generating the Implementation Plan. Chairman Fuller will work with Ms. Flakne on a transmittal letter to the Board of Trustees requesting formal approval of the Implementation Plan.

Ms. Cassie Hatzfeld who works in the Volunteer Resources Center of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County has an outreach program which works with high school students for habitat restoration. Perhaps Ms. Hatzfeld could develop a coalition with Mr. Jeff Yordy, Horticulture Teacher at Glenbrook South High School (GBS), to eliminate the teasel in the retention area at GBS. Commissioner Nelson will research what plans GBS has for the retention area and will report back to the NRC next month.

## **New Business**

### **Planning for River Day, May 8, 2010**

The Site Captain for River Day will be Commissioner Saunders assisted by Commissioner Nelson. This clean-up day will focus on the area surrounding Reach 1.

Volunteers at River Day will be informed of a request for assistance needed to install 20,000 plants at the detention basins from May 15 – June 15, 2010.

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**Adjournment**

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn. Commissioner Saunders seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott  
Recording Secretary