



MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 15, 2010

Call to Order by the Chairman

The March 15, 2010 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairman Fuller at 7:10 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, Halliday, Nelson, and Saunders;
and Ms. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Commissioner Blomquist

GUESTS: Mr. Roy Fickel, Public Works Department
Ms. Janet Spector Bishop, Communications Director
Ms. Carol Freeman, Former NRC Commissioner
Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the February 15, 2010 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page three, last paragraph, last line should read, "... Chicago River could be invited ..."

Commissioner Beck moved to approve the February 15, 2010 Minutes as amended. Commissioner Halliday seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

General Communications

The next meeting of regional green commissions will be held in Highland Park on May 1, 2010.

The Go Green Glenview group is promoting the fourth Earth Hour which will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 8:30-9:30 p.m. This is a global event which recommends people turn off their lights for one hour to save electricity.

Commissioner Beck said Illinois was the first state in the country to have a Natural History Survey. The Illinois Natural History Survey, which updates nature preserves, held a summit last week where a new network was created called Sustainable Natural Areas Project (SNAP) in order to help sustain nature preserves. A Conservation Congress meeting will be held in April, 2010 and discussion will include funding for SNAP. Part of The Grove is a dedicated Illinois nature preserve.

There is an open house at the Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter on April 16, 2010 for a photography exhibit. It is a show of Ms. Carol Freeman's work of nature in Glenview which is on display until May 31, 2010. Ms. Freeman said all of the photographs displayed were taken either at Techny Basin or Air Station Prairie. This show is available for exhibition elsewhere beginning in June.

An article in the GLENVIEW ANNOUNCEMENTS said cylindrical wind turbines have been funded for the Park District's maintenance building and the Air Station Prairie. The Village maintenance garage has geothermal heating and uses a different type of cement which prevents overheating. It may also receive a solar or green roof.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

Planning for River Day, May 8, 2010

Commissioner Saunders attended a meeting presented by Ms. Cynthia Fox for River Day Site Captains. Some volunteer groups could be sent to Peninsula Park or to The Grove to pull garlic mustard.

Site Captains will remind volunteers their help is also needed on May 15 & 29, 2010 to plant plugs at the detention basins retrofits at: Pfingsten Road, Lindenwood Lane, and Shermer Road. Commissioner Saunders will contact local garden clubs to seek additional volunteers. Commissioner Nelson will contact the Glenbrook South High School club called Interact for their assistance.

Friends of the Chicago River received \$30,000 over two years from the Donnelly Foundation to get people more engaged in the watershed.

Implementation of Natural Resources Plan

Commissioners felt this idea was generally discussed throughout the meeting.

New Business

Stormwater Task Force Update

Mr. Joe Kenney was unable to attend this meeting to present the Stormwater Task Force update. Mr. Kenney will attend a future NRC meeting.

Communications Planning

The Natural Resources Commission would like to discuss its overall Education Outreach program including:

- Reach 1 change to the Techny Basin
- Educate people on Glenview's natural resources
- Educate homeowners along the river.

Ms. Janet Spector Bishop suggested before a group creates a communications plan, its ideas and goals should be clear.

Work on Reach 1 will be from May - October, 2010 followed by planting in spring of 2011.
Ideas to Promote Reach 1 include:

- Hold a press conference on the river and hand out flyers while being videoed by GVTV.
- Present a report at a Village Board meeting.
- Reserve space in April's Village newsletter.
- April's newsletter could include basic project information for West Fork River corridor.
- May's newsletter could add more content, and a flyer.
- Request a politician attend the Reach 1 groundbreaking.
- Install a sign indicating the Reach 1 project is supported by stimulus funds.
- Install a sign decorated with Great Blue Herons explaining work being done on the river.
- Manage a Reach 1 page on e-Glenview with text and photographs.
- Document project progress and recovery with (daily/weekly/monthly) photographs.
- Mention stormwater benefits.
- Promote project at Glenview Street Festival, Farmer's Market, Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center, The Grove, Bike Path.
- Ms. Freeman has a book that may have pictures of the river before being straightened.
- Mr. White's text write-up for The Grove may have additional information.
- Commissioner Nelson could Photoshop what Reach 1 looks like now and what it will look like after re-meandering.
- Illinois Historical Society may have an aerial photograph showing the river in 1939.
- Develop an iconic image that represents this project.
- Develop a timeline.
- Identify steps necessary for a web page.
- Mention detention basin retrofits will also take place this spring.
- Already under construction downtown for the east bank river stabilization project.
- Hold a river water-quality testing demonstration.
- Tout project's benefits to quality of life issues.
- "Looking for a river? How could you Reach 1?" (courtesy of Ms. Robyn Flakne).

Perhaps there should be signs on each side of the river. Commissioners Nelson and Saunders will work on the sign design, along with Ms. Freeman. Mr. Fickel and Ms. Flakne will discuss sign possibilities.

Ms. Flakne and Ms. Bishop will work on text for the Village newsletter. Basic information about the Reach 1 project is found in the grant application. Important points to explain:

- Reach 1 is a body of water and where it is located.
- This is an important piece of the river corridor, which is part of a watershed.
- Reach 1 was a high-quality prairie stream that was made into a ditch which is now being returned to a quality stream.
- Show a color rendering of the section of the river that will be re-meandered.

Commissioners should compile a base level of information for inclusion in the Village newsletter. The same information could be used for a flyer. Commissioner Saunders, Ms. Flakne, and Ms. Bishop will work together on a flyer.

Ms. Freeman will work on a proposal for a variety of items such as:

- Logo development for the Natural Resources Commission and Reach 1.
- Take weekly photographs of the work being done on Reach 1.

Ms. Flakne will request further funding from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for publicity funding.

The NRC had already assessed the river and its needs so when stimulus money was available, the NRC was shovel-ready.

Ms. Freeman suggested creating laminated cards that show photographs of various prairie floral and fauna species of the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River on one side with facts on the card's other side. Cards can be distributed at the Farmer's Market or at Earth Day festivities being held at Abt. The cards could be in series of river, prairie, and woodland species. Ms. Freeman will contact Mr. Steven Packard and Ms. Lucy Hutcherson of Chicago Wilderness for information about its use of laminated cards.

Abt is hosting the fortieth anniversary of Earth Day on April 18, 2010 from 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m. The NRC will have a table at this event and talk with people about activities for their yards, i.e., rain gardens, etc. A rain barrel could be on display along with some NRC materials such as walking and bicycle path flyers.

Other communication projects the NRC would like to see in 2010 are:

- Riverfront homeowners
- Detention basins
- Rain gardens

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Chairman Fuller thanked Ms. Bishop for attending the NRC meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn. Commissioner Saunders seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary