



MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
June 20, 2011

Call to Order by the Chairman

The June 20, 2011 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Acting Chairperson Beck at 7:03 p.m. in the Village Hall Lunch Room.

Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

Roll call was taken and Acting Chairperson Beck noted a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Beck, Blomquist, Chiappetta, Ganim and Halliday;
and Ms. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Chairperson Saunders

GUESTS: Mr. Roy Fickel, Public Works Department
Mr. Robert Keller, Public Works Department Summer Intern
Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters

Approval of Minutes

Acting Chairperson Beck asked for corrections or comments to the May 23, 2011 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page one, twenty-seventh line should read, "... being funded through the CIP."

Page three, first line should read, "Homeowners need information about: ▫ the current ..."

Page three, second paragraph, fifth line should read, "A remaining question is how many ..."

Page three, second paragraph, last line should read, "... of invasive plants. To leverage the past work and interest of the NRC in the health of the community's tree canopy, special emphasis could be on trees preserved along the banks."

Page four, first paragraph, last line should read, "... trees that could soon be lost without intervention."

Page four, sixth paragraph, last line: "B&W could produce a brochure with information on: ..." moved to page three after second paragraph.

Commissioner Blomquist moved to approve the May 23, 2011 Minutes as corrected. Commissioner Halliday seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0.

General Communications

There is a quite a bit of lawn care information on the internet site “You Tube” that could prove helpful to residents. Brochures may be an element of the past though they have some value. Perhaps social media (e.g., “Facebook,” “Twitter,” and “You Tube”) is a better way of announcing events and educating the public. The NRC should consider the value of electronic press releases and discuss them with Ms. Lynne Stiefel, Village Communications Director. Commissioners should read the Wagner Farm blog on the internet which is written by Mr. Todd Price.

Commissioner Beck will supply lawn brochures at the June 29 riparian residents’ meeting. There is an organization called Safer Pest Control that provides lawn-care workshops for a fee.

The NRC should examine some issues like new types of press releases, etc. and then discuss them informally with Ms. Lynne Stiefel, Village Communications Director. Ms. Stiefel should then be invited to a NRC meeting. Commissioners should read the Wagner Farm blog on the internet which is written by Mr. Todd Price.

Commissioner Beck provided copies of videos called “Getting in Step: Engaging and Involving Stakeholders in your Watershed” and “After the Storm.” Also provided was the brochure “Watershed Protection in the New Millennium.”

The United Nations has declared 2011 as the year of the trees.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

Reports on Recent Events (e.g. World Environment Day, Bernice Popelka’s Woodworth Presentation)

Commissioners Halliday and Ganim attended World Environment Day at the Botanic Gardens. Commissioner Halliday attended a lecture by Nalini Nadkarni, Ph.D., who is a forest ecologist known as “the queen of canopy research.” Dr. Nadkarni teaches Biology at Evergreen State College and conducts research in the tropics and the temperate rain forest of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. The International Canopy Network (ICAN) is devoted to facilitating the continuing interaction of people concerned with forest canopies and forest ecosystems around the world. Dr. Nadkarni weaves together science, aesthetics, spiritual values, and social justice values.

Commissioner Ganim attended a lecture called “Reinventing Fire” by Mr. Michael Potts, President and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Institute. The lecture title is also the codename of Rocky Mountain Institute’s strategy to speed the transition from our current fossil-fuel economy to a better world fueled by efficiency and renewable energy sources.

Mr. Potts spoke about:

- The difficulty of reacting to price volatility of oil, as an example.
- How to get to a new energy economy. Make the process as efficient as possible then examine renewable energy.
- Only 0.5% of a car's energy is used to move the person; the rest of the car's energy is used to move steel.
- 90% of buildings in use claim 40% of our energy.
- People are pleased with building retrofits such as roof gardens. Some retrofit costs were recouped within a few years.

Ms. Bernice Popelka's Woodworth Prairie presentation on June 13 was attended by Chairperson Saunders and Commissioners Beck and Halliday. Commissioner Beck said this small and interesting site is a true remnant of the prairie. The tour given by Biology Professor Dennis Nyberg was fascinating.

Planning for Farmers Market Green Table and Street Sale

Commissioner Beck will attend the Farmers Market Green Table on Saturday, June 25. Commissioner Chiappetta will attend the Green Table on July 2 along with a couple of Project Earth members. Commissioners Beck and Chiappetta will also attend the Village of Glenview booth at the Street Sale on Saturday, June 25. Ms. Flakne offered to supply Commissioners with handouts such as:

- June 29 riparian residents' meeting flyers
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) information
- Basic NRC information

Planning for West Fork Residential Information/Workshop

The West Fork Residential Information/Workshop will be held on June 29 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Sleepy Hollow Park Field house. Mr. Drew Mays, who is taking on some of Mr. Joe Kenney's former responsibilities, will attend. Commissioner Halliday will call Sleepy Hollow Volunteers to invite them to the Workshop. Letters inviting West Fork residents have been mailed. There will be several displays including:

- Baxter and Woodman photographs on poster board
- Raingarden display
- Remeandering brochure
- Video being shown

Draft Agenda Revision

7:00 p.m. Welcome, Introduction, Presentation, Informal Discussion

- History of the West Fork Watershed
- History of the River
- Village of Glenview River-Related Projects
- Riparian Zone Management
- What Residents Can Do to Keep the West Fork Healthy
- Differentiate between what NRC does and STF did

7:30 p.m. View Informational Displays

8:00 p.m. Presentation Repeated, Informal Discussion

- History of the West Fork Watershed
- History of the River
- Village of Glenview River-Related Projects
- Riparian Zone Management
- What Residents Can Do to Keep the West Fork Healthy
- Differentiate between what NRC does and STF did

9:00 p.m. Closing

319 Grant Application

Ms. Flakne would like to receive Commissioners' comments to the 319 Grant proposal by Friday, June 24 as the proposal is due on June 29, 2011. Ms. Flakne spoke with Mr. Mike Novotney, Lake County Storm Water Management Commission, who is helping to coordinate grant applications that would come under the North Branch watershed. Mr. Novotney suggested the Village submit an application for the education piece and to pilot the cost-share idea. Other suggestions:

- Use the Lake County framework plan with the nine elements
- Add that Glenview was chosen to do the Green Infrastructure Project under Stimulus Plan
- Include brochure on how Glenview is helping the river
- Mention there were discussions about the functioning of the three watersheds in Glenview and the Village's response to flooding events.
 - Village actions to reduce flooding include cost-sharing programs on overhead sewers and home drainage inspections. This project is leveraging work that has already begun with rain barrels and rain gardens.

Outreach

Ms. Flakne said Chairperson Saunders continues to work with the Park District to set up regular meetings of all parties that are working toward green issues.

Other

Commissioner Beck said a colleague has a worm box used for vermicomposting. If this item is sold in lots of thirty, the price would be reduced.

Commissioner Beck held a small workshop at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a couple months ago on the use of the natural mineral gypsum as a soil amendment for flowers and grass. The use of gypsum in yards and gardens is very good as it binds with anything in the soil and acts like a fertilizer but does not do damage like phosphorus. Perhaps there could be a gypsum pilot project for a 319 Grant. Lurvey's Garden Center sells gypsum and Pesche's Garden Center sells a gypsum mixture. Gypsum is a good soil amendment but there has been no determination if it should be used for food crops as gypsum has trace metals. The EPA is currently studying this issue. Mr. Fickel is interested in using gypsum for trees.

The question was also raised: Does gypsum help alleviate the damage from salt that runs off impervious concrete into the soil and plantings during the winter at the Train Station?

Commissioner Blomquist suggested Commissioners view a documentary that is informative and humorous called "King Corn." It is about two college graduates from Massachusetts (whose great grandfathers were farmers in Iowa) that move to Iowa and try to raise an acre of corn.

The next NRC meetings will be on July 18, September 19, and November 21, 2011.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ganim moved to adjourn. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary