



MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
May 23, 2011

Call to Order by the Chairman

The May 23, 2011 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:03 p.m. in the Village Hall Lunch Room.

Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

Roll call was taken and Chairperson Saunders noted a quorum was present.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Chiappetta

GUESTS: Mr. Thomas Ganfield, Baxter & Woodman
Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the March 21, 2011 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page two, first paragraph, second line should read, "... for their properties."

Page two, second paragraph, sixth line should read, "... the trees are still bare."

Page two, fifth paragraph, second line should read, "... homeowners associations' ..."

Page two, fifth paragraph, sixth line should read, "... This Natural Resources design project is being funded through the CIP."

Page two, sixth paragraph, fourth line should read, "... and where invasive and exotic ..."

Page three, ninth paragraph, first line should read, "The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus awarded and is administering a \$20,000 sub-grant of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds to replace Village ash trees."

Commissioner Beck moved to approve the March 21, 2011 Minutes as corrected. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

General Communications

May 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Woodworth Prairie Professor Dennis Nyberg, University of Illinois at Chicago, Steward of the Woodworth Prairie on Milwaukee Avenue, will open the prairie.

June – August at Glenview Public Library Mr. Frank Mayfield's photographs of the Woodworth Prairie will be on exhibition.

June 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Chicago Botanic Garden is celebrating World Environment Day. Two of the speakers are Dr. Nalini Nadkarni and Mr. Michael Potts.

June 4 at 1:30 p.m. at Portage Indiana Lakeshore Park National Trails Day Lake Michigan Water Trails Association, a new organization, will be recognized by the National Park Service.

June 6 at 4:30 to 5:30 at Chicago Architecture Foundation Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change sponsored by the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago.

June 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Woodworth Prairie Ms. Bernice Popelka, involved in the rescue and preservation of Woodworth Prairie, will give a presentation about the book she has written about preserving the Prairie.

June 25 Glenview Street Fair NRC Booth staffed by Commissioners Beck, Chiappetta, and Project Earth Club members.

June 25 at Farmer's Market Green Table Commissioner Beck will attend.

June 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Glenview Public Library Mr. Frank Mayfield will give a talk.

August 2 at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Glenview Public Library Professor Nyberg will give a talk.

Ms. Lynne Stiefel is the new Village Communications Manager.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

West Fork Residential Information/Workshop Planning (Guest Speaker: Mr. Thomas Ganfield, Baxter & Woodman, Engineering)

Mr. Ganfield brought three posters (aerial view, map, and photographs) as exhibits to aid his talk about stream assessment of the West Fork residential neighborhoods. Mr. Ganfield will determine what action riparian residents could take to improve their property which adjoins the river, as well as improve water quality and wildlife habitat along the river corridor.

The residential areas of Tall Trees, Sleepy Hollow, and The Circles are experiencing problems such as loss of vegetation along property lines and loss of physical structures such as a fence or potentially the cracking of a house foundation. Each of the three neighborhoods also have a park along the river. Baxter & Woodman will ascertain how many houses and commercial structures are along the river.

Homeowners need information about:

- the current problems and their potential solutions
- watersheds
- stormwater management
- best management practices.

If a brochure is created to inform residents, it could be packaged with a survey to discover residents' concerns. It is not clear if distributing a survey at the first meeting would be appropriate. The Village will try to secure a 319 (Clean Water Act) Grant in order to cost-share solutions with residents. Another funding opportunity would be through an Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant. A remaining question is how many residents would consider a bio-engineered technique? The Stormwater Task Force created videos which may be helpful to residents. There could be a menu of topics from which residents could choose to learn about improving their property such as: gravel driveways, rain gardens, and removal 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.

B&W could produce a brochure with information on:

- Managing one's lawn
 - how and when to fertilize
 - how to apply herbicides and pesticides
 - removal of yard waste.

Potential streambank stabilization solutions:

- Rock toe with native vegetation and sloping back the banks
 - Remove buckthorn and honey suckle and open up landscape to sunlight
 - Plant native vegetation.
- Coir Log (a/k/a Coconut Log)
 - Trench dug to keep it low
 - Put coir log at the bottom of banks
 - Wood stakes keep it in place
 - Less expensive than rock
 - Supports plant life and will eventually break up
 - Not suitable for West Fork because not useful for high velocity water.
- Tree Preservation
 - Tuck rock underneath to slow down erosion
 - Clear invasives along the side and plant native plants
 - Trees hold the soil together and shade and cool the river

- Articulated Concrete Block
 - Concrete blocks that have holes in the middle to hold soil and/or vegetation
 - Stable.
- Removal of Invasive Species
 - Allows more sunlight to ground floor
 - Cut down buckthorn and use herbicide for its roots
 - Seed with herbaceous plants which have deep roots and interconnect.

The Village could educate riparian residents and neighborhood associations with a local bus trip showing successful solutions. A video of this tour could be aired on GVTV. Perhaps Ms. Flakne could talk to the 319 Grant folks about sponsoring a pilot bus program as part of a public outreach program. There could be demonstration projects of existing streambank stabilization projects or new projects using rocks to shore up 5-10 trees that could soon be lost without intervention.

Mr. Ganfield reminded Commissioners that this effort is a program to repair the river corridor, not just the streambank.

Mr. Fred Gullen and the Boy Scouts have worked well together and coordinated with Commissioner Blomquist on Eagle Scout projects, particularly at Sleepy Hollow Park. Perhaps a larger project could be coordinated with several potential Eagle Scouts.

The Village could apply for 319 Grant funding for a larger educational program yet at the same time it is important to keep working towards having an initial workshop to generate residents' interest.

Commissioner Beck volunteered to participate at a Glenview Days Street Fair booth on June 25 to talk about watersheds. Residents should be exposed to concepts before talking to them about their backyards. The NRC would like Baxter & Woodman (B&W) to gather informational material about options and best practices.

Outreach to residents could include:

- Marketing/Education Campaign
 - establish a watershed site on Village website with links for additional information
 - establish a lateral file at the Glenview Public Library
 - establish an adhoc committee
 - Find Stormwater Task Force resources.

A couple of years ago NOAA and EPA paid the Weather Channel to create a series on stormwater, watersheds, and green infrastructures. Copies of this program were given to GVTV and may be interesting to residents.

Suggestions for a workshop on June 27 or 29, from 7-9 p.m. for riparian residents at Sleepy Hollow Fieldhouse:

- this is a clarification meeting offering support.
- open house setting, talk with people one-to-one
- residents examine exhibits around room; have a speaker; unstructured time for conversation
- explore options
- share information
- awareness building
- focus on defining watershed
- talk about neighborhoods and individual problems
- display and distribute materials

Getting the word out:

- invitation with NRC's logo could be a postcard with a photograph of Reach 1
- target certain areas yet open to all
- install signs announcing the workshop
- posters at Glenview Public Library, etc.
- distribute notices at Farmer's Market Green Table
- post on e-Glenview and Village Newsletter
- Commissioner Halliday will call Sleepy Hollow volunteers
- Commissioner Beck will contact Mr. Fred Gullen
- Chairperson Saunders will call Ms. Stiefel to discuss publicity and methodology
- Perhaps NRC can have a booth at Glenview Street fair staffed by Commissioners Beck, Chiappetta, and Project Earth Club members.

The NRC will learn residents' concerns at the workshop. From this information, a survey could be written then mailed for additional data.

Ms. Flakne will try to locate Friends of the Chicago River's riparian neighbors' handbook. Another interesting booklet was written by the Center for Neighborhood Technology called "Water: From Trouble to Treasure" and is available on the internet at http://www.cnt.org/repository/Water_booklet_final.pdf

Chairperson Saunders thanked Mr. Ganfield for his help.

Review of Events

Arbor Day, April 29

Chairperson Saunders, Ms. Flakne, and Mr. Roy Fickle, went to GBS to celebrate Arbor Day with Project Earth members.

Emerald Ash Borer Spring Workshops, April 30 and May 10

The first Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) workshop was supposed to be taped by GVTV but unfortunately the audio portion was not operating correctly so Ms. Flakne will need to lip-synch a portion of it. There are several different chemicals that may be used against EAB which require

different application methods and it is not clear which ones are best. Mr. Steve Swanson did a good job of show-and-tell about The Grove's infested ash trees. Chairperson Saunders noted Ms. Flakne gave a terrific presentation of complicated material and made it clear. This information needs to be available on GVTV and on the Village website. Copies of the video should be made available to the Glenview Public Library. The Glenview Street Fair could also have information about EAB. It was suggested Ms. Flakne train others to answer residents' questions about EAB.

River Day

River Day was a success. Volunteers came from the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, families with younger kids, and two buses of youth from the Ismaili House of Worship and Center on Shermer Road. Some volunteers went to the North Navy Ditch and pulled garlic mustard; other volunteers went along the river on the east side to pick up garbage. Ms. Cathy McGlynn, Coordinator, at the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP), helped remove garlic mustard at Peninsula Park.

Eagle Scout Planting

Ms. Flakne supplied Mr. Sulli Gibson with 2,000 plants to install for an Eagle Scout project. All of the plants have been placed in the ground. Simultaneously, Mr. Fred Gullen worked with another Eagle Scout at West Fork Park to spread compost and native seed, and then cover with a straw blanket.

Review of Meetings

Green Town

Commissioner Ganim attended the Green Town meeting in Elgin. The theme of the meeting was sustainability and energy savings. Seventy-five percent of sustainability is reducing use of energy. There were talks about what various communities are doing in terms of sustainable environmental projects. There were a couple of programs on geothermal energy. There were ideas brought up that could fit into Glenview which would take a lot of outreach using the Village Departments of: Development, Engineering, and Public Works.

River Summit

Chairperson Saunders attended the Chicago River Summit sponsored by Friends of the Chicago River on May 13. Topics discussed included green infrastructure and building partnerships, especially with commercial and institutional partners.

Local Environmental Commissioners

The Local Environmental Commissioners group has changed their name to CONSEC. Some communities concentrate on polystyrene recycling or reducing commercial use of plastic bags by placing a fee on local businesses. The next CONSEC meeting is August 27. Chairperson Saunders will contact the Village Attorney to determine how many NRC members are allowed to attend CONSEC meetings.

Grant Application Status

Ms. Flakne reported that the Village has been denied many of the grants for which it applied; however, there are still grant applications awaiting a response.

Planning for Farmer's Market Green Table

The schedule for the Farmer's Market Green Table is almost completed. Commissioner Blomquist will change the date of his participation to August 27.

Outreach

Chairperson Saunders suggested the NRC continue working on outreach. Chairperson Saunders and Commissioner Beck met with President Cummings, Mr. Todd Hileman, Mr. Chuck Balling, and Mr. Steve Swanson. Would the NRC and The Park District like to create a Village discussion group with those interested in the environment and sustainability modeled after the Glenview Values Project (which comprises different constituencies which have shared values)? The Park District would offer the Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center as a meeting place, perhaps quarterly.

Next NRC Meeting

The NRC will meet on June 20, 2011. Continue discussion on workshop:

- publicity
- speaker from Baxter & Woodman
- posters in the room (the three at the May NRC meeting are a good start)
- find watershed videos
- bring in lists of addresses for invitations: residents and commercial property owners
- supply a sign-up sheet for future activities related to the issues discussed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Blomquist moved to adjourn. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary