



MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 19, 2012

Call to Order by the Chairman

The March 19, 2012 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:05 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, Chiappetta, Ganim, and Halliday;
and Ms. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Commissioner Blomquist

GUESTS: Mr. Roy Fickel, Superintendent of Public Works Department
Mr. Russ Jensen, Village Engineer
Ms. Lynne Stiefel, Communications Director
Ms. Jodi Carlson, Intern, Public Works Department
Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the January 16, 2012 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page two, first paragraph, second line should read, "... the motion carried 5-0."

Page two, fourth paragraph, second line should read, "... March 1 – April 29, ..."

Page three, fifth paragraph, first line should read, "The MWRD plan, MS14, is an alternative project designation."

Page five, fourth paragraph, second line should read, "the motion carried 5-0."

Commissioner Ganim moved to approve the January 16, 2012 Minutes as amended. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

General Communications

There was an article in THE PIONEER PRESS about the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) projects which mentioned Lot 16.

Commissioners received the document "Environmental Commissions" generated from the Glencoe League of Women Voters which explains CONSEC's (Council of North Suburban Environment

Commissions) mission, what communities are members of CONSEC, and the purpose for each community's group. This document did not mention any of the established regional organizations which also share an exchange of ideas such as:

1. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP): a regional planning commission which has a standing environmental committee.
2. Chicago Wilderness: a regional alliance consisting of more than 260 organizations working together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here by protecting the land and water. Members of Chicago Wilderness include local, state and federal agencies, large conservation organizations, cultural and education institutions, volunteer groups, municipalities, corporations, and faith-based groups.

Chairperson Saunders received an e-mail from the Executive Director of SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County) stating the Open Meetings Act had changed and someone from the Village must be trained to learn the new rules. Ms. Lisa Goodwin will receive this training.

Glenview has won a \$20,000 grant to replace trees as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

New Business

NPDES Program (Guest Speaker: Mr. Russ Jensen)

Mr. Jensen gave a general overview of NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System). NPDES was originally created in 1977 to regulate point-source contributions, particularly from industrial applications and wastewater treatment plants which seemed to be the largest polluters of our streams and rivers. (Residential properties were not taken into consideration at that time.) Illinois, particularly the Chicago metropolitan area, is the largest contributor of nitrogen and phosphorous to the Mississippi River basin.

In the mid-1980s NPDES began looking at urban and agricultural runoff and how these factors were affecting rivers, streams, and lakes. In 1987 there were changes to the Water Quality Act and NPDES permitted requirements that incorporated stormwater from urban areas and industrial and construction sites. These changes included using pipes and ditches for drainage.

The MS4 designation (which stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) indicates any storm sewer systems or sanitary systems that combine sewers which discharge directly into our lakes, rivers, and streams. NPDES has altered its focus to include regulating stormwater runoff for construction sites and industrial areas.

Glenview has two separate sewer systems: one system is for the storm sewer and the other system is for sanitary sewers. The sanitary sewer system's capacity was not built to include storm events; but there is stormwater leakage into the aging sanitary system.

The majority of rivers and streams in Illinois have water-quality issues caused by the properties adjacent to these waterways such as downstate farms which are not highly regulated. Lake Glenview has not been assessed at the state level, however, the Village monitors Lake Glenview's water quality and it is meeting water quality standards.

All Illinois rivers, streams, and lakes have pathogens like mercury and PCBs which are caused by a myriad of factors—homeowners, businesses, and farms all contribute in one way or another and all need to address how this problem can be corrected.

All of the water in Glenview drains into one of three rivers: Des Plaines River, West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River (two-thirds of the Village drains into this river), and the North Branch of the Chicago River.

Mr. Jensen said the Natural Resources Commission does make an impact in Glenview with projects like streambank restoration, wetland preservation, and the rain barrel program. One of the issues that MWRD is trying to put into their new regulations for county-wide stormwater management is for every development to maintain a certain amount of initial storm runoff on site.

The most recent project Mr. Jensen worked on is the impervious parking lot near the Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center. Commissioner Beck said driveways could be made porous in a number of ways. Commissioner Ganim suggested the Farmer's Market Green Table have some information about permeable driveways.

Mr. Jensen said the Village of Glenview is progressive in that it looks at water quality along with water quantity. One project the Village will consider is a stormwater utility fee structure. Incentives are great opportunities for people to get rebates or to lower the fee amounts.

The Commission thanked Mr. Jensen for his presentation.

Old Business

Event and Communications Planning (Guest Speaker: Ms. Lynne Stiefel)

◦ General Communications Discussion

- The Commission would like Go Green Glenview to publicize NRC projects.
- Perhaps Glenview schools, Park District, and Village could work together on Earth Day and Arbor Day.

- Glenview Summer Festival a/k/a Street Sale: The NRC will be at the Glenview Summer Festival and might supply a barrel to collect batteries. Maybe the Village could provide a place for Abt Electronics to park a truck to receive e-waste. Perhaps Commissioners could set up a meeting between the NRC and the Chamber of Commerce members who work on the Summer Festival to discuss these issues.

- The NRC needs to communicate about the projects it is addressing and show examples of its outreach with citizen involvement. A good organization to emulate is the Lakewide Management Plan, or "LaMP," which is a plan of action to assess, restore, protect and monitor the ecosystem health of a Great Lake. It coordinates the work of all the government and non-government partners' efforts to improve the Lake ecosystem and addresses the public's concerns.

- There has been a discussion about creating an environmental council of interested citizens in Glenview. Ms. Stiefel suggested the NRC take this message and go where there is an audience: the Park Center, Metra Rail Train Station, and Evanston Green Drinks (a free networking opportunity and panel discussion for people interested in living green).

- The Village is now a member of the media network Constant Contact, Inc. which will provide a simple way to build a successful connection with residents through e-mail marketing, online survey, event marketing and social media. Perhaps the NRC's first assignment would be to come up with 52 green tips.

- The Green Table schedule should be posted on the table at the Farmer's Market.

There are five different papers in Glenview:

- THE GLENVIEW ANNOUNCEMENTS
- THE JOURNAL
- THE GLENVIEW LANTERN
- PATCH
- TRIB LOCAL

Ms. Stiefel advises the NRC to cover these topics for outreach:

- Any story that centers around trees
- Stormwater flooding
- Recycling
 - SWANCC:
 - Takes batteries, light bulbs, and over-the-counter medications

- Stopped taking recycled gym shoes but Ms. Stiefel knows a Boy Scout Leader who will ship them to Nike
- Works with Glenkirk (which helps individuals who have developmental disabilities) to recycle aluminum cans and paper.

- April 28 is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day for proper medication disposal sponsored by the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration).

- Ms. Stiefel is working on a compilation of area recycling which will be posted on the website.

- Ms. Stiefel reminded the NRC the Village has a number of good ecological brochures ready for distribution.

- Glenview is holding an electronics recycling day on August 28, 2012. Abt will accept styrofoam recyclables.

- Commissioners should send photographs of volunteers in action to Ms. Stiefel who will forward it on to TRIB LOCAL and THE PATCH.

- This year's July 4 parade theme is "Go Green" and the NRC is welcome to create a float for the motorcade.

- Ms. Stiefel will soon launch a weekly one-minute video called "Ask the Village" which is linked to e-Glenview and on the Village website. The NRC is welcome to promote its topics on this medium.

- **2012 Chicago River Day, May 12**

Chicago River Site Captain, Chairperson Saunders, has found a Co-Captain for River Day. Ms. Flakne distributed to Commissioners a flyer promoting the 20th Annual Chicago River Day. Its information will be posted in the May Village Newsletter, on the Village website, and e-Glenview. Commissioner Ganim will photograph the event.

- **EAB**

Ms. Flakne will update the Village website with current emerald ash borer information.

- **Continued West Fork Events**

Ms. Flakne said the Village did not receive Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Funding to provide assistance to homeowners for riverbank stabilization, however, the grant will be resubmitted.

The NRC may sponsor another guided bike tour. Chairperson Saunders will work on solidifying a date for the bike tour. The Glenview Police Department may be able to lend support with a bicycle-riding officer or two. Maybe someone from GVTV could join the ride and film it.

Ms. Flakne is preparing a self-guided bike tour whose map will soon be on the Village website. The self-guided map may also be placed in the District 34 newsletter and sent to the PTA.

◦ **NRC Report to the Village Board**

In late fall of this year The Natural Resources Commission would like to inform the Village Board of Trustees what projects it is working on.

◦ **Arbor Day**

Glenview will celebrate Arbor Day on April 27 at Glenbrook South High School with Project Earth members who will plant a River's Purple European Beech tree.

Report on Recent Meetings and Events/Upcoming Meetings and Events

· Chicago Wilderness Sustainability meetings: talked about having a municipal track for the conference in the fall. There will be a meeting on April 5 which will be about funding.

· The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) held its river-planning meeting.

· Evanston Green Drinks (sponsored by Citizens' Greener Evanston) had a presenter on rain gardens. Noted that Evanston installs permeable pavement in alleys when possible.

· On March 30 the Loyola Land Management Coordinator at the Munz Campus, Mrs. Jennifer Snyder, will meet with NRC former Chairman Kent Fuller and Chairperson Saunders.

· On April 19 the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Science and Research Symposium will be held at the Lincoln Park Zoo and discuss several ecological studies which use the forest preserves in their research.

· Commissioner Halliday requested help in pulling garlic mustard from Sleepy Hollow Park.

Business Plan

- How does the Commission move forward between meetings?
- If there was a subcommittee meeting, do minutes need to be kept?
- If there is no official agenda with only old business discussed and no action taken, are minutes necessary?
 - Is a staff member necessary?
 - Is an audio recording of this gathering acceptable?

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Chairperson Saunders said there is much work the Commission wants to do between meetings. Ms. Flakne will ask Mr. Eric Patt to define how many Natural Resources Commissioners make a quorum and what is the majority of a quorum according to the Open Meetings Act?

Chairperson Saunders feels the Natural Resources Commission is unable to get enough work completed if it meets just every other month. The press of business dictates that Commissioners need to meet more often.

Grant Application Updates

[This topic was not discussed.]

Outreach

[See page four, middle of page.]

Adjournment

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn. Commissioner Chiappetta seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary