

**MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
November 17, 2014**

1. Call to Order by the Chairman

The November 17, 2014 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:10 p.m. in the Village Hall Staff Room.

2. 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 Newman; and Dr. Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Commissioner Halliday

GUESTS: Mr. Roy Fickel, Superintendent of Public Works

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the September 18, 2014 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting. The following revisions were noted:

Page 2

Under summer intern program – strike the word “attacked” to read: “She reviewed their projects.”

Page 3

Last paragraph should indicate that “319” is “The Clean Water Act Section 319 Watershed Program Application.”

Under upcoming meetings/events, change the sentence starting with “Chairman Saunders asked if Ms. Flackne...” to “Dr. Flackne advised she will probably do some buckthorn cutting.”

Page 4

Under New Business, add the word “planning” before the word “tool” when referencing charrettes.

Comm. Chiappetta moved to approve the September 18, 2014 minutes as amended. Comm. Ganim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

4. General Communications

Commissioner Ganim provided a report on the November 11th CONSEG meeting he attended where the topic was “Transportation in the Suburbs – Moving Beyond the Car.”

Comm. Ganim asked if the NRC is interested in having a member join CONSEG. Chairman Saunders asked if Comm. Ganim could attend and inform the Commission about what is

happening. She noted that he could attend on his own and not as a representative of the NRC, as anyone can attend if they are interested in the topic.

5. Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None

6. Old Business

- Review of past meetings/events
Fall 2014 river cleanup on November 2nd: Comm. Chiappetta was asked to pass along thanks to her Project Earth group for their participation in this successful event. Comm. Beck reported that the volunteers on clean-up day found little rubber duckies with “Northbrook Rotary Club” emblazoned on them, along with bikes found in the river. It was agreed that someone needs to talk to those who were responsible for this to let them know that rivers carry trash elsewhere. Dr. Flakne reported that Northbrook’s club is aware of the situation and took responsibility for the unintentional release of the ducks. They said a net was used to catch the ducks when they were released into the river; however, it failed to work and they managed to float away. A concerned citizen complained and staff went out along with the Rotary Club to clean it up. Comm. Beck felt that asking where the water in the Chicago River comes from could be a learning opportunity and an opportunity for outreach. She referred to the book “Moby Duck.” She also wanted to make people aware that Glenview is in a watershed and what happens when an item is released.

Chairman Saunders asked when the next clean-up is scheduled. Ms. Flakne reported it is always the Saturday before Mother’s Day, which is either the 9th or 16th of May.

Comm. Halliday reported that she found a giant buckthorn on the path near the Hospice before the path meets up with the road.

- *Stormwater Presentation:* Chairman Saunders reviewed the stormwater presentation, stating it was initiated by the League of Women Voters in the North Shore communities. The presenters were discussing alternatives being presented in other suburbs for stormwater solutions. Joe Kenney was invited to speak about Glenview’s task force and good community engagement with positive outcomes in the Village. The task force created a prioritization that village staff has followed closely. There are some large projects that fit together to help obtain additional funds. Comm. Beck received positive feedback on what Glenview had done, and feels that the Village is ahead of the shoreline suburbs in Cook County on this issue. One of Glenview’s best practices is that the Natural Resource Manager worked proactively with Lake County to get Clean Water Act Section 319 grants in collaboration with the county. Dr. Flakne stated that at the time Friends of the Chicago River was taking on the stormwater management role in Cook County, and that they latched on to Lake County who “semi adopted” Cook County.

Dr. Flakne still attends the Lake County Stormwater Management North Branch watershed meetings. Comm. Beck stated that it is more difficult in Cook County since it is so large and diverse.

Comm. Beck stated that one of the good outcomes of the Task Force is that they came up with 18 problems and who is supposed to solve them. This was during the economic downturn and the Village wants to ensure when all these projects can be done. Chairman Saunders commented about the low turnover on staff, as she feels it is important to keep staff continuity. She then praised staff for all they do.

- Upcoming Meetings/Events

Invasive Species Workshop: The Northern Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP) coordinator is interested in learning if the Commission would be interested in attending the workshops on invasive plants which were grant funded. They are trying to get good participation at the one at the Wilmette Park District on Tuesday, March 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Other scheduled dates are January 23rd in Highland Park and February 19th at Evanston. Dr. Flakne reported that they list education and outreach as topics which seems to dovetail well with Comm. Beck's ideas that the Park District Golf Course staff may want to learn more about invasive species, so notifying them would be a good idea. Comm. Beck pointed out that the contractors used by the park district may want to attend a session presented in a different language. Dr. Flakne agreed to suggest this to NIIPP. Comm. Ganim suggested handouts in Spanish could be helpful, and that it would also help to have an agenda for the workshop. Comm. Beck and Chairman Saunders both expressed an interest in attending.

District 34 Science Fair: Comm. Newman reported that planning is progressing well and they now have five judges. Rob Blomquist sent the principal some tips and ideas from last year on improving the fair. Comm. Newman stated that Pleasant Ridge School asked the Commission to provide judges at the Science Fair on Saturday, January 24th from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. He explained that it is very straightforward if anyone is interested in being a judge. Comm. Chiappetta expressed an interest and will let Comm. Ganim know if she will be available.

- Project Status

Dr. Flakne provided a rundown of the various ongoing projects. The green infrastructure signs have gone through all the Commissions and will be installed this year. Chairman Saunders suggesting making a big production when they are put up. Dr. Flakne agreed and noted that it has to occur by the end of this year. Chairman Saunders proposed having an unveiling after they are installed, and asked if the Commission could be informed when a date is set.

The detention basin on the Methodist Church property that Glenview bought has been dug and seeded, and the trees and bushes are planted. A Boy Scout will be working with the Village to do the wetland plug planting as his Eagle Scout project, with a target date of May 30th.

The River Walk Project is underway, but on hiatus for the winter. Comm. Beck suggested laying these out and doing a PR promo and working with Lynne on a communications plan.

- **Tree Preservation:**
This ordinance was on the agenda for November 18th; however, due to a full agenda, it was rescheduled to the December 9th Board of Trustees Meeting. The majority of the ordinance is for parkway trees, and Chairman Saunders, Commissioner Beck, Dr. Flakne and Mr. Fickel were on the committee to tweak it. Chairman Saunders commented that many residents do not understand what a great program it is, and how generous it is of Glenview to offer. Comm. Beck noted that Glencoe residents pay to have trees planted, whereas Glenview asks which species and pays for the plantings.
- **Outreach -** Dr. Flakne stated that this is a standing agenda item that relates to dealing with schools and contacting them (or homeowners or any audience). Comm. Beck commented that all environmental opportunities are part of the Commission's outreach, including the Science Fair. It was suggested bringing the Science Fair winners to a meeting so they are exposed to the NRC.

7. New Business

Heritage Tree Registry Updates

Dr. Flakne explained that this program is to invite residents to honor a tree and that the owner's permission is needed to nominate the tree as a heritage tree. The tree is measured and plugged into a formula used by most big tree registries. They are then ranked, and the largest is the winning one for each species. Although Glenview's heritage trees are ranked by size, the program is not only about the size. Trees can be registered for any reason that they are special. This is just an honorary program and does not give any kind of extra protection status. The registry is on-line with photos. In the first few early years there were several nominations, but it has slowed down considerably. To operate it as proposed by the NRC, volunteers are needed from the NRC to conduct the measurements and submit them back to staff. At the end of the year a framed certificate was made for newly registered trees and distributed to the tree owners. Comm. Beck stated that a former Appearance Commission member asked her about it and wanted to go to the various neighborhoods explaining it to people, starting with the Circles. Comm. Beck sees it as an opportunity to educate people and suggested having Chairman Saunders issue the certificates and have a speaker talk about trees. Comm. Beck contacted Fred Gullen, who used to work for the Park District and coordinated the Eagle Scout program.

Chairman Saunders commented that it might make sense for a scout to do a project. Comm. Beck noted that there are 80 homes in the Circles, but some may have several prize contestants since it is a fairly wooded area. John Hedrick sent out an email with about 30 proposed trees. Mr. Fickel noted that the NRC has the authority to review and approve or deny, and that the heritage tree registry is only within the Village's data base. Chairman Saunders commented that it is an excellent program with criteria already set, and thinks there may be another neighborhood who wants to do something about their gardens or trees. Comm. Beck said she is not sure how exactly it will work in the Circles or how many other homes are interested. Dr. Flakne stated that if parkway trees are nominated, no signoff is needed; however, if it is private, the owner's signoff is needed. Instructions are on the website to direct residents to submit applications to Dr. Flakne, who distributes them at the NRC meetings and asks for someone to measure the trees.

Invasive species month planning:

May is Illinois Invasive Species month. Lynne Stoefel, Communications Manager, had a videographer record Chairman Saunders and former Chairman Kent Fuller pointing out invasive plants near the Costco gas pumps during the nicer weather. The library would like Dr. Flakne to do a presentation on invasive species in May, where the video could be shown. The Village should highlight to property owners that there is a need to take care of the living resources. Comm. Beck feels that it is good for people to understand because the retention basins have blended invasives with natives. Climate change is also bringing in new issues.

Comm. Beck recalled talking about backing up different steps to take in order to be ready for an invasive species month. Chairman Saunders is hoping that Cathy McGlynn of NIIPP will have some updated materials in March so the content is current. Chairman Saunders requested that more aspects of this are put together before the January meeting to decide what the next doable steps are at that time.

Sea Grant Pilot Community

Dr. Flakne reported that this invitation was sent to both her and Comm. Beck from Abigail Derby-Lewis and was from a meeting regarding resilient cities. Participation in the project would provide an opportunity to work with others in the beginning stages of climate adaptation. Ms. Flakne stated that it was extremely vague on what was asked of the volunteer communities, but there is a potential tie-in with the local technical assistance (LTA) project going forward with CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning). Jeff Brady, Director of Planning, is reviewing the CMAP Memorandum of Understanding since his department will be the most involved.

Ms. Flakne noted that another related piece is with the Morton Arboretum. Lydia Scott of the Community Trees Program has assembled six communities as pilots for climate adaptation in regard to the urban forest. There will be a kick-off meeting at the Arboretum on November 20th. Comm. Beck stated that the United States Forestry Service is putting money in this and collaborating with the Chicago Wilderness Regional Trees Initiative, and Glenview is among the

first urban areas they are looking at. Comm. Beck noted that Glenview has some good work happening and feels that it will be beneficial that Dr. Flakne has been participating. Chairman Saunders asked how the Commission can support Dr. Flakne in all this mix of initiatives in ways that Glenview can be a good example. Dr. Flakne said that the decision to be a climate adaption urban forestry community was made at staff level, and is looking forward to the November 20th meeting to see what they want from Glenview.

Comm. Beck stated that the tree initiative is very important and there is a lot of science going into it, and that the LTA issue is also important. CMAP gets the transportation dollars and has the Go To 2040 plan; they were able to get federal dollars to help communities who don't have sophisticated planning on staff and need help creating a comprehensive plan. It is exciting to see something go to Glenview since it is a community that does not usually need help. She is on the Land Use Committee for CMAP. Chairman Saunders asked if she could let the Commission know if she thinks of ways to help the group become more knowledgeable. Dr. Flakne was asked to provide a summary to the NRC.

Comm. Beck reported that Chicago Wilderness is doing a Strategic Planning process and sent all their membership a questionnaire, but is having a problem with getting them returned. The list they sent out does show that Dr. Flakne did respond for Glenview.

Comm. Beck inquired about the empty lot next to the Woodworth Prairie and whether it is in Glenview and if the prairie had been designated an environmentally significant area. She asked if this is something that will come before the Environmental Review Commission (ERC). Dr. Flakne stated that the lot appears to be in Glenview and the prairie is an environmentally significant area, but was not sure if the project would trigger ERC review. Comm. Beck will contact Jeff Brady about this.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn; Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Schultz

Recording Secretary